THURSDAY
February 9, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
16 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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Vol.54 • No.33

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

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Aarogya Setu app data deleted, says Centre

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Will act to protect U.S. interests, says Biden

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The lesson from a court appointment

The present structure is flawed, needs reform

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BIG BATTLE

India-Australia Test series begins today

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My shield is the trust of 140 cr. Indians: PM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said "false accusations" and criticisms levelled against his government by the Opposition would not pass muster with the people of India, declaring that "the blessings of 140 crore Indians" was his "*Suraksha Kavach* [shield]".

Mr. Modi was responding in the Lok Sabha to the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President for her Address to the joint sitting of Parliament.

The debate on the motion was itself fiery and combative, with the Opposition, demanding a Joint Parliamentary Committee to look into issues raised by the Hindenburg report on the Adani group and allegations that proximity to the government had aided the group.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Turkey, Syria quake deaths near 12,000

Agence France-Presse
ISTANBUL

The death toll from a massive earthquake that struck Turkey and Syria rose above 11,700 on Wednesday as rescuers raced to save survivors trapped under debris in the winter cold.

Officials and medics said 9,057 people had died in Turkey and 2,662 in Syria from Monday's 7.8-magnitude tremor, bringing the total to 11,719.

For two days and nights since the quake, thousands of searchers have worked in freezing temperatures to find those still alive under flattened buildings on either side of the border. Turkish Red Crescent chief Kerem Kinik had warned that the first 72 hours were critical in search and rescue efforts but pointed to complications of "severe weather conditions".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

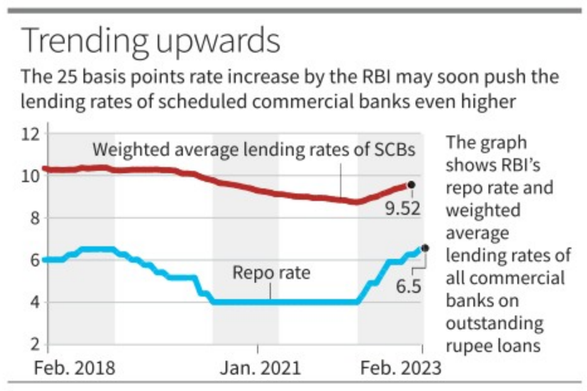
RBI lifts loan costs to tame inflation

Banking system now much stronger to be affected by one case, says Das; Monetary Policy Committee raises Q1 FY24 growth forecast to 7.8%

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India on Wednesday raised the benchmark lending rate by 25 basis points (bps) to 6.5% as the RBI targets persistently high core or underlying inflation that it sees as a risk to the improving outlook for the economy.

Observing that the rate increases since May were still working their way through the system, Governor Shaktikanta Das said, "The MPC was of the view that further calibrated monetary policy action is warranted to keep inflation expectations anchored, break the persistence of core inflation and thereby strengthen the medium-term growth prospects."



The MPC, which lowered its CPI inflation forecast for the current fiscal year to 6.5% from the 6.7% it projected at its last policy meeting in December and raised its growth estimate for Q1 of the fiscal year beginning in April by 70 bps to 7.8%, also reiterated that it would stay focused on withdrawal of accommodation. Two of the panel's six members, however, voted against the majority decision to raise rates.

Answering reporters' questions on the Adani group, Mr. Das said the Indian banking sector was strong and that one case would not impact it.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

NEARBY

DKS, daughter summoned

BENGALURU
A couple of months ahead of Assembly elections, the Enforcement Directorate has yet again issued a notice to KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar, asking him to appear before it on February 22. His daughter has been served notice by the CBI.
» Page 6

BIFFes to begin on March 23

BENGALURU
The 14th edition of Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) will be organised in the city from March 23 to 30. The venue will remain Orion Mall, Rajajinagar, like previous years, said Revenue Minister R. Ashok. » Page 5

Mercury soars over 30° C in city as winter is almost over

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

The saying is that winter begins its slow exit after Shivarathri, making way for summer. But over the last few days, the maximum temperature in Bengaluru has gone above 30 degrees Celsius. Although summer will officially set in only by March, the weathermen say the heat being felt indicates winter is drawing to a close.

On Wednesday, the maximum temperature at Bengaluru city station of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) was around 31.5 degrees in the morning and 31.1 degrees in the evening, whereas the minimum temperature was around 18 degrees.

The maximum temperature at the Bengaluru city station of the IMD was around 31.5° C on Wednesday morning. FILE PHOTO

Minimum temperature

"Now it is unlikely that we will experience 14-15 degrees minimum temperature in the coming days. It will mostly be around 17-18 degrees, and maximum temperature will go up, maybe up to 33 degrees by the end of the month," said Prasad, scientist, IMD, Bengaluru.

He also said it was normal for weather patterns to change two weeks before the onset of a new season as the impact of the upcoming season could be felt much before. Based on the data recorded between 1991 and 2020, the normal (average) maximum temperature for February is 30.9 degrees, according to IMD.

"Summer is likely to set in by the end of this month, and for another week, the temperature in Bengaluru will be pretty much the same," he said. In February, there are no chances of rain while in March, thundershowers might occur one or two days, he said.

On the winter pattern, Mr. Prasad said, "As the summer was very sharp last year, some had doubts about having a normal winter. But this winter was definitely cold while not being too harsh."

ISRO, Navy conduct key trials for Gaganyaan mission

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), along with the Indian Navy, has conducted an important trial for the Gaganyaan, human space flight mission. On Tuesday, they carried out initial recovery trials of the Crew Module in the Navy's Water Survival Test Facility (WSTF) in Kochi.

"The trials were part of the preparation for crew module recovery operations for the Gaganyaan mission that will be carried out in Indian waters with the participation of Indian Government agencies, the overall recovery operations being led by the Indian Navy," the space agency said.

A Crew Module Recovery Model (CMRM), that simulates the mass, center of gravity, outer dimensions, and externals of the actual Crew Module at touchdown, was used for the trials. The sequence of operations required for the recovery of the Crew Module were carried out as part of the trials.

A Crew Module Recovery Model was used for the trials. ISRO

Final step

According to ISRO, as the safe recovery of the crew is the final step to be accomplished for any successful human spaceflight, it is of paramount importance and it has to be carried out with the minimum lapse of time.

"Hence the recovery procedures for various scenarios need to be extensively practiced by carrying out a large number of trials. The Standard Operating Procedures (SoP) for recovery of Crew and Crew Module need to be finalised. The recovery trials will be initially carried out in a closed pool followed by trials in a harbor and in the open sea," said ISRO.

ISRO's recent operation form the initial recovery trials of Crew Module in a closed pool. Different phases of recovery trials starting with the recovery of the Crew Module to the flight crew training are planned at WSTF.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 3

An appeal to mark Feb. 14 as Cow Hug Day

Hugging cows will bring emotional richness and increase happiness, says Animal Welfare Board of India, decries the dazzle of Western civilisation pushing Vedic traditions to the verge of extinction

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) wants to name February 14 as Cow Hug Day and has appealed to the public to embrace cows, claiming that it would bring "emotional richness" and increase "individual and collective happiness".

Dairy farmers, on the other hand, alleged that the Board did not even help them when thousands of cows died due to lumpy skin disease recently.

February 14 is celebrated in many parts of the world as Valentine's Day.

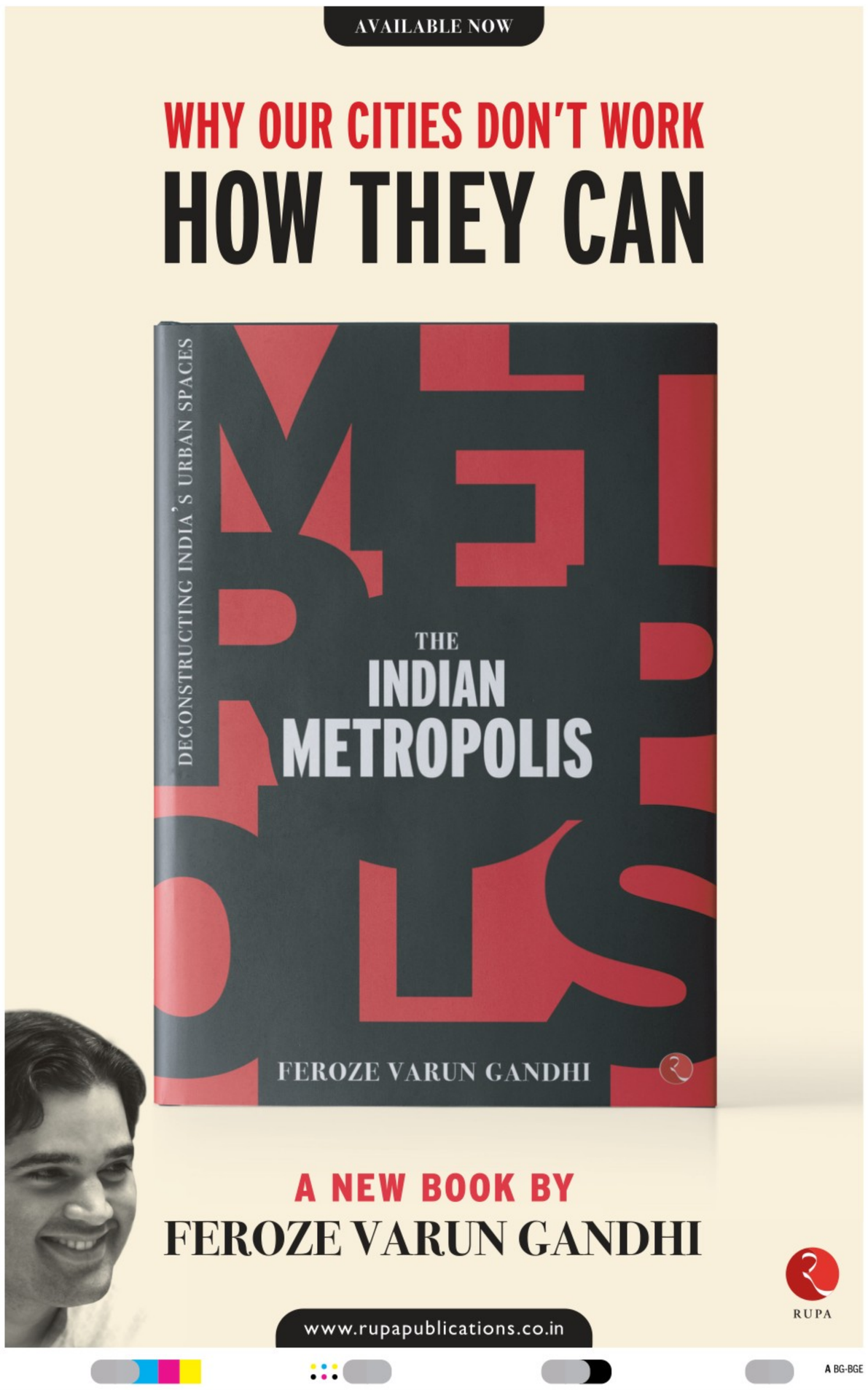
Backbone of culture

In an appeal signed by its secretary S.K. Dutta, the AWBI said the cow is the backbone of Indian culture and the rural economy, sustaining life, and representing cattle wealth and biodiversity.

"It is known as *Kamdhenu* and *Gaumata* because of its nourishing nature like a mother, the giver of all, providing riches to humanity. Vedic traditions are almost on the verge of extinction due to the progress of western culture over time. The dazzle of western civilization has made our physical culture and heritage almost forgotten," the Board said in the appeal.

ILLUSTRATION: SATHEESH VELLINEZHI

This is with the "approval of competent authority and on the direction of Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying", it added.



Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Domestic air traffic increases in January this year, says ICRA

1.25 In crore, the domestic air passenger traffic in January 2023, an increase of 96% compared to the year-ago period, according to ICRA. However, traffic remained 2% lower compared to January 2020. The net loss in FY2023 is expected to be lower than that of FY2022 (₹235 billion), due to recovery in passenger traffic, fare hikes and lower interest burden. PTI

Increase in estimated coal production due to high demand

1,087 In million tonnes (MT), the estimated demand for coal in the ongoing financial year 2022-23, the Lok Sabha was informed. As against the increased coal demand, domestic production of the fossil fuel has also increased, the Coal Minister added. The demand for coal increased to 1,027.92 MT in FY22 from 906.13 MT in FY21. PTI

Pilot govt. digital currency witnessed 7.70 lakh transactions

50,000 The no: of users for the recently launched retail central bank digital currency (CBDC) pilot, according to the Reserve Bank of India. The pilot project started on December 1 has witnessed 7.70 lakh transactions, and is now being carried out in five cities, Deputy Governor T. Rabi Sankar said. PTI

People in India at the highest risk of flooding from glacial lakes

3 In million, the number of people in India at risk of flooding caused by glacial lakes, the highest number of those exposed, according to a study by Newcastle University. This is the first global assessment of areas and people at greatest risk of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF). The study estimates 15 million people to be at risk from flooding caused by glacial lakes. PTI

Govt. recognised startups eligible to avail fiscal incentives

86,713 The number of startups recognised by the government as of December 31, 2022, the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Som Parkash informed Parliament. These startups are eligible to avail fiscal incentives under the Startup India action plan. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The status and proceeds of disinvestment

What does the government aim to achieve with disinvestment? Have targets been met in recent years? Which CPSEs are slated for disinvestment in 2023-24? What measures have been taken to meet the targets? What are the challenges that the process faces?

EXPLAINER

Diksha Munjal

The story so far:

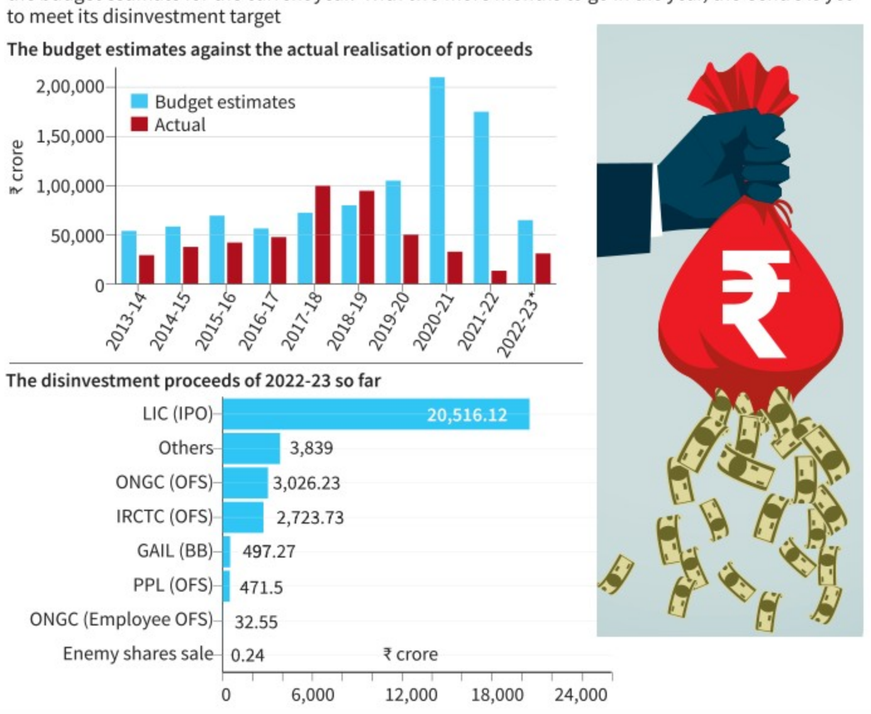
In the Union Budget for 2023-24, the government has set a disinvestment target of ₹51,000 crore, down nearly 21% from the budget estimate for the current year and just ₹1,000 crore more than the revised estimate. It is also the lowest target in seven years. Moreover, the Centre has not met the disinvestment target for 2022-23 so far, having realised ₹31,106 crore to date, of which, ₹20,516 crore or close to a third of the budgeted estimate came from the IPO of 3.5% of its shares in the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).

What is disinvestment?

Disinvestment or divestment, in this context, is when the government sells its assets or a subsidiary, such as a Central or State public sector enterprise. Minority disinvestment, majority disinvestment, and complete privatisation are the three main approaches to disinvestment. On fruition of minority disinvestment, the government retains a majority in the company, typically greater than 51%, thus ensuring management control. In the case of majority divestment, the government hands over control to the acquiring entity but retains some stake whereas in complete privatisation, 100% control of the company is passed on to the buyer. The Union Finance Ministry has a separate department for undertaking disinvestment-related procedures called the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM). The government may disinvest in order to reduce the fiscal burden or bridge the revenue shortfall for that year. It also uses disinvestment proceeds to finance the fiscal deficit, to invest in the economy and development or social sector programmes, and to retire government debt. Disinvestment also encourages private ownership of assets and trading in the open market. If successful, it also means that the government does not have to fund the losses of a loss-making unit anymore. After the the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government's privatisation drive, the stock market saw the listing of shares of a bunch of public sector firms. A bold push for disinvestment of the public sector was expected soon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed office in May 2014, announcing that the government had "no business to be in business".

High expectations

The Union Budget 2023-24 has set a disinvestment target of ₹51,000 crore, down nearly 21% from the budget estimate for the current year. With two more months to go in the year, the Centre is yet to meet its disinvestment target



How has disinvestment fared?

To begin with, different central governments over the last three decades have been able to meet annual disinvestment targets only six times. Since coming to power in 2014, the BJP-led NDA government has met (and overachieved) its disinvestment targets twice. In 2017-18, the government earned disinvestment receipts of a little over ₹1 lakh crore as against a target of ₹72,500 crore, and in 2018-19, it brought in ₹94,700 crore when the target was set at ₹80,000 crore. Notably, PRS Legislative Research points out that in recent years, in cases of disinvestment where the government sold more than 51% of its shareholding in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), along with a transfer of management control, its stake was sold to another public sector enterprise. Case in point, when the Centre exceeded its target in 2017-18, it earned ₹36,915 crore by selling Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) to the state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). Similarly, in 2018-19, REC Limited was sold to the state-owned Power Finance Corporation Limited, through which the government raised ₹14,500 crore. In 2021-22, when Air India was added to the Tata group, the Centre missed its high disinvestment target of ₹1.75 lakh crore by a significant margin, raising just ₹13,534 crore in disinvestment proceeds. In the current year, a third of its budget estimate came from the delayed LIC IPO, which would have happened in the previous year if not for market volatility. The sale of the 52.8% stake in Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) had to be called off in mid-2022 because almost all the bidders had withdrawn. The strategic sale of Central Electronics was also shelved due to lapses in the bidding process and the Pawan Hans stake-sale did not take off as well. While the Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. (NINL) was sold to a steel entity of the Tata group, no sale proceeds accrued to the Centre's exchequer as it held no equity in the company. With ₹31,106 crore in the exchequer as disinvestment proceeds so far, and less than two months remaining in the current fiscal, the government is likely to miss its target.

Which CPSEs are likely to see disinvestment?

The Centre is not going to add new companies to the list of CPSEs to be divested in 2023-24 and the aspirational divestments of two public sector banks and one general insurance firm, announced in the Budget two years ago, will also not be a part of the plan. According to DIPAM, the government has decided to stick to the already-announced and planned privatisation of state-owned companies. Incidentally, the disinvestments of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, SCI, and ConCor had been approved by the government in 2019 but have not gone through yet. Observers point out that disinvestment should ideally be driven by the long-term vision of the government and not by the need to raise revenues. However, of late, the government's reliance on disinvestment proceeds to bridge the gap in the Budget has been increasing. It had introduced a new disinvestment policy in 2021 to maintain 'bare minimum' presence in strategic sectors like atomic energy, defence etc., and exit non-strategic sector enterprises.

THE GIST

- In the Union Budget for 2023-24, the government has set a disinvestment target of ₹51,000 crore, down nearly 21% from the budget estimate for the current year and just ₹1,000 crore more than the revised estimate.
- Disinvestment or divestment, in this context, is when the government sells its assets or a subsidiary, such as a Central or State public sector enterprise. Minority disinvestment, majority disinvestment, and complete privatisation are the three main approaches to disinvestment.
- The Centre is not going to add new companies to the list of CPSEs to be divested in 2023-24 and the aspirational divestments of two public sector banks and one general insurance firm, announced in the Budget two years ago, will also not be a part of the plan.

Is there a change in German policy towards Russia?

What led Germany to change its stance of diplomacy and dialogue towards Russia to a more assertive one? Does the trade of energy between the two countries factor in their political relationship?

V. Srivatsal

The story so far:

After months of political debate, the German government announced on January 25 that it would send Leopard 2 main battle tanks (MBTs) to Ukraine. The decision marks Germany's shift from its policy of Ostpolitik – an approach followed in an effort to bridge Berlin's divisions and "bring change through trade".

How did Germany's policy towards Russia evolve in the 20th century?

Germany's relationship with Russia has always been critical to European security and prosperity. Soon after the Bolshevik revolution and Germany's defeat in the First World War, the Soviet Union and the newly born German republic signed the Treaty of Rapallo, establishing diplomatic relations. In August 1939, as war clouds were hovering around Europe, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union signed a non-aggression agreement, which eventually collapsed in 1941 when Hitler invaded the latter. After the Second World War, Germany was divided between the Soviet backed East Germany and the U.S.-backed West Germany. Gradually in 1971, with the adoption of 'Ostpolitik' by West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, significant economic interaction began between the two sides. As a result of this policy, Germany signed an agreement and started importing Russian natural gas for the first time. It was a widely shared belief that economic interdependence could foster better political ties.

What about post-Cold War period?

In the post-Soviet world, a unified Germany doubled down on its efforts to promote ties with Russia. The efforts to promote political ties through energy trade continued even as Vladimir Putin and Gerhard Schroder rose to leadership in Russia and Germany, respectively. The Nord Stream 1 pipeline, transporting gas directly from Russia to Germany, was a result of these changing equations. The energy relationship went hand-in-hand with the political relationship. Regardless of Russia's actions in Georgia (2008) and Crimea (2014), the German political establishment continued enhancing Germany's energy reliance on Russia.

How has the war in Ukraine impacted Germany's foreign policy?

As Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022, Germany's policy underwent a fundamental shift. Chancellor Scholz declared the war a Zeitenwende (turning point), and since then, Germany's policy has moved away from an emphasis on dialogue and diplomacy to a more assertive stance, culminating in the decision to send Leopard 2 MBTs to Ukraine. In the initial phases of the war, Berlin believed that a diplomatic solution was possible to bring an end to the conflict. However, as the war progressed, Germany amended several of its previous policies that shaped its orientation towards Russia.

What has been Germany's response since the war?

One of the key factors driving this change in policy is Germany's recognition of the need to reduce its dependence on Russian energy. Soon after Mr. Putin recognised Ukraine's Donetsk and Luhansk provinces as independent republics, Germany stalled the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which was ready for operation. Subsequently, it announced the construction of four floating terminals and two permanent onshore sites for enhanced LNG imports, struck an energy deal with Qatar, and supported numerous rounds of EU sanctions against Russian entities. Germany also worked with other European capitals to assure swift delivery of arms and aid to Ukraine. Germany's gradual shift towards a more robust policy towards Russia is a testament to the changing realities of Europe's security landscape.

THE GIST

- After months of political debate, the German government announced on January 25 that it would send Leopard 2 main battle tanks (MBTs) to Ukraine.
- In 1971, with the the adoption of 'Ostpolitik' by West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, significant economic interaction began. As a result of this policy, Germany signed an agreement and started importing Russian natural gas for the first time.
- The energy relationship went hand-in-hand with the political relationship. Regardless of Russia's actions in the past, the German political establishment continued enhancing Germany's energy reliance on Russia.

Runaway law student traced to Kerala

Though he wanted to enter the hospitality industry, his parents pressurised him to study law, according to the police

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While he aspired to venture into the hospitality industry, his parents wished he became a lawyer and got him admitted to a reputed law college in the city. However, unable to bear the pressure, a 21-year-old student ran away from college sending his parents, the college, and the city police into a tizzy.

The Suddaguntepalya police swung into action and traced the student to an ashram in Kerala within 48 hours and reunited him with his family on Thursday.

The student hailing from Jharkhand was admitted to the law course against his wishes. He failed the first semester exams and wanted to quit the course. However, his parents forced him to complete the course. Unable to take the pressure, he fled from the city on February 4, said C.K. Baba, DCP (South East).

The student sent a message to his family and left the college in the evening, after which he switched off his mobile phone. His family rushed to the city and found him leaving the college library on February 4 and all attempts to contact him failed. Footage also showed that he had tied his college ID card to the foot-over-bridge at Sophia High School in the CBD area. Panic stricken, they lodged a missing complaint.

Attempts to track his mobile phone initially failed as it was switched off. However, on constant monitoring they found that he switched it on and off often. They tracked him to Mysuru, Palakkad, and then to Alleppey. The police found he had made an online payment to a shopkeeper in Alleppey. They rushed to the town and tracked the boy to an ashram in the town, where he had gone to "find peace", the police said.

"Parents must understand the interest of their children and support them. Pressure from their side as an add on to academic stress, may push students to take irrational but extreme steps," Mr. Baba said.

Aero India 2023: Defence Ministry to organise CEOs' Roundtable

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Ministry of Defence is organising a CEOs' Roundtable on February 13, the inaugural day of Aero India 2023, under the chairmanship of Minister of Defence Rajnath Singh.

The roundtable will see participation from officials, delegates, and global CEOs from 26 countries including global investors such as Boeing, Lockheed, Israel Aerospace Industries, General Atomics, Liebherr Group, Raytheon Technologies, Safran, General Authority of Military Industries (GAMI) etc.

Domestic PSUs like Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL), Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL), Bharat Dynamics Ltd. (BDL), BEML Ltd. and Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited will also take part.

The five-day event will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and will include aerial displays by aircrafts along with a large exhibition and trade fair of aerospace companies. This year, the exhibition is expected to be the biggest airshow with the highest rate of participation and will feature top international think-tanks, major aerospace companies and world leaders.

Water adalat

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BWSSB will hold water adalat on Thursday from 9.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. in various parts across the city to settle the issues related to water billing and other problems. According to a release, it will be held at the following sub divisions: North-2-1, South 1-1, South 2-1, South West-1, South West 4, East 1-2, East 2-2, South East 2, South East 5, West 1-2 and West-2-2.

K. Sathyanarayana Raju appointed MD and CEO of Canara Bank

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Union government on Tuesday appointed K.Satyanarayana Raju as Managing Director and CEO of Canara Bank with immediate effect, replacing L.V. Prabhakar, who demitted office on December 31, 2022, on superannuation. Mr. Raju, a physics graduate, PG in Business Administration (Banking and Finance) and CAIIB, has vast experience in all segments of banking, said a release.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, NireeshaKathi W/o. Dinesh Pothireddy, residing at No.40, Saiven Caesars Palace, V. Kallahalli, SarjapuraHobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru. My client have lost the original Sale Agreement dated 25.08.2019, registered as Doc No.BSG-1-04186-2019-20, for property bearing Flat No.B-1404, 14th Floor, measuring 69.60 Sq.mtrs., in the "Godrej 24" Apartment, constructed on Sy No.118 and 139 of Chambenahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru, while taking photocopy in Xerox shop. If any person/institution has any claim or interest of any nature pertaining to aforesaid property and document, the said claims along with supporting document/s shall be filed with undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this Notice at the address mentioned below, Any claim raised thereafter shall not be entertained or binding.

DINESH .R, Advocate
No.3/2, 2nd Floor, MTK Reddy Building, Outer Ring Road, Marathahalli, Bengaluru 560037.
Date: 08.02.2023

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Vinoth George S/o Mr. George R/a No. 476, Ground Floor, 8th Main Road, Near Ganesha Temple, Hanumantha nagar, Bangalore-19 do here by solemnly affirm and state oath as that in my Passport my name has been mentioned as Vinoth George George. But my true, correct and continue my name as **Vinoth George (Correct name)** only in all my future records, deeds, writings, proceedings, transactions private as well as upon all occasions whatsoever vide affidavit sworn before Advocate and Notary Mamatha.N.K. On 08.02.2023.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Chief General Manager (Tech), 1st Floor, UNI Building,
Thimmaiah Road, Millers Tank Bund Area, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru – 560 052.

No:CGM(TECH)/BSWML/PR/199/2022-23 Date: 08-02-2023

CORRIGENDUM

Name of the work:"Selection of Service Provider for Primary Collection & Transportation Services in Covered Vehicle along with the Secondary Transportation of Waste in Segregated Manner to designated locations".
Ref: Tender Notification No:CGM(TECH)/BSWML/TEND/02/2022-23 CALL-2, Date: 21-01-2023.
Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka has directed to extend the bid submission date and time, for the above mentioned work, as per the table below. Due to technical reason, bid submission date and time couldn't be extended in the E-portal. Hence, it is requested to the interested bidders to submit Technical and Financial bids separately in sealed covers physically/ manually at the above office **till 12:00 PM (Noon) on 09-02-2023** along with EMD amount in the form of Bank Guarantee/ DD/ FDR/ Pay Order payable to Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru. Any bids without EMD will not be accepted.
Time Schedule/Calendar of events:
1) Last Date & Time for submitting the sealed bids:
On 09-02-2023 till 12:00 PM (Noon).
2) Opening of Tender (Technical Bi**d):On 10-02-2023 at 04.30PM**
3) Opening of Financial bid : **Will be informed later.**
Note:
1. All other tender conditions of RFP remain unaltered.
2. Any further details can be obtained from the above said office.
3. Bids will not be received after above due date and time.

DIPR/CP/4586/2022-23
Sd/-
Chief General Manager (Tech), BSWML

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our clients **Mr. A.Vinoth Kumar S/o S.Angurajan and Mr. N.R.Harindranath** are intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Sri.H.Srinivas S/o T.N.H.Rao,** any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our client/s shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property comprising of house premises on ground floor and first floor, built on property **No. 239,** presently bearing No. 239/3, Corporation No. 239/3, situated at **37th 'A' Cross Road, 4th 'T' Block, Corporation Division No. 57, Bangalore,** measuring East to West 20 feet, North to South 23 feet, and bounded on the: **East by : Property No. 240, West by : Property No. 238, North by : Property No. 234, South by : Road**

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 7204863700

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **Smt. Nemali Uma Rao C/o G.S.Seshu Babu** is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Sri. David J.Lobo** represented by his **GPA Holder Sri.R.Srinivas Raju S/o late N.R.Raju,** any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof within **10 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our client/s shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the **Site No. 2, Property No. 1/1 and 2,** situated at **Geddalahalli Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk,** under the BBMP limits, Bangalore, measuring East to West on Northern side 49 feet, on Southern Side 45 feet, North to South on Eastern side 48.6 feet, on Western side 70 feet, totally measuring **2668 sq feet** and bounded on the: **East by : Remaining property in Sy No. 1/1 and 2 West by : Private property North by : Road, South by : Private property**

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 7204863700

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Hubballi: 0836-2338600 • 2335700

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ASRA Shaheen Mohamad Ismail Khan R/a # 2-2-4/7 HRB Layout, Opp Mahila Samaj, Androon Quila, Raichur-584101, have changed my name as Asra Shaheen vide affidavit dtd 17-1-2023 sworn before Notary Faiyazuddin Rcr.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, BOBY Kurian ,R/O flat No : 19121,Tower 19, Prestige Shantiniketan,Hoodi,Whitefield,BLR–48, have changed my son's name from "Rabel" to " Rabel Kurian " vide afdvt dtd 07/02/2023.

TENDERS

No.63/PRTC/Tech/FBB/2022
PUDUCHERRY ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION LIMITED.,
(A Government of Puducherry Undertaking)
Date : 08.02.2023
PRESS NOTICE FOR e-TENDER
E-Tenders are invited under two bid systems from the Bus Chassis Manufacturer (OEM) for purchase of 30 nos. Fully built diesel BS-VI buses having 5900 MM to 6200 MM wheel base for inter city operation. The tender document is available in the website **https://pudutenders.gov.in**

1.	Date and time of publishing	**08.02.2023 at 4.00 P.M**
2.	Bid Submission Closing time	**27.02.2023 at 05.00 P.M**

MANAGING DIRECTOR, PRTC, Puducherry

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
BEFORE THE HON'BLE TNREAT (TAMIL NADU REAL ESTATE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL,CHENNAI)
Appeal No. 41 of 2022

1.P.VENKAT RAYUDU ---Appellant
-Vs-
1.Y.Sudarsana Rao
2.Jayamalathi Sudarsana Rao
3.A.Sekar, Power of Attorny for Y.SudarsanaRao & Jayamalathi Sudarsana Rao, M/s.TATA Value Homes
4.Sanjay Dutt, MD & CEO, TATA Value Homes Ltd /THDCL
5.Pramod Bisth,Regional Business Head-South, TATA Realty & Infrastructure Ltd
6.Balaji Ramaswamy, Project-Manager, TATA SANTROINI Project Office
7.Santorini apartment Owners Association (7th Respondent added as party byTNRERA)
-----Respondents

To Respondent 5 :
Mr.PramodBisth,
Regional.Business Head -South,
TATA Realty & Infrastructure Ltd,
Corniche Al - Latheef, No.25,
Cunningham Rd,
Bangalore-560052

Please take notice, the above appeal filed by me challenging the order of TNRERA dt. 10-6-22 in case No.85/2020 came up for hearing on 6-2-2023 and stands Adjourned to 8-3-2023. Kindly appear either in person / through counsel, failing which the matter will be adjudicated in your absence.

P.VENKAT RAYUDU (Appellant)
Project"SANTORINI"SIFNOSA-24
TATA Value Homes Limited
Kuthambakkam,Chennai- 600 124

LEGAL NOTICE

ORIGINAL
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY TESTAMENTARY AND INTESTATE JURISDICTION
PETITION No. 926 OF 2022

Petition for Probate of Last Will and Testament of Dhanwanti Dinkar Rao alias Dhanwanti Dinker Rao, Hindu, Indian Inhabitant of Mumbai, Widow, Occupation: Housewife, who was residing at the time of her death at 3rd Floor, Iviana, Lady Jamshedji 2nd Cross Road, Mahim, Mumbai-400016
....Deceased

1. **Shakuntala Sitaram Naik** alias **Shakuntala S. Naik** Age 69 Years, Occupation: Retired, Hindu, Indian Inhabitant of Thane, residing at D-10/311, Century Colony, Murbad Road, Shahad, CTC: Kalyan, Thane-421 103,
2. **Kallianpur Vishwanath Rao** alias **K. V. Rao** Age 71 Years, Occupation: Retired, Hindu, Indian Inhabitant of Mumbai, residing at Near Laxminarayan Mandir, 702, Labh Srushti Society, 123, V. P. Road, Vile Parle (West), Mumbai - 400 056, being the Executrix and Executor respectively appointed under the Last Will and Testament of the deceased above named
....Petitioners

To,
1. Chandrakala Balkrishna Residing at Nadabettu House, Uppoor, Udupi Tq/District, Karnataka State.
2. Mamtha Jagadish Residing at Nadabettu House, Uppoor, Udupi Tq/District, Karnataka State.
3. Meera Ganesh Residing at Mullihethalu, Bolar, Mangalore - 575 001.

If you claim to have any interest in the Estate of the abovenamed Deceased, you are hereby Cited to come and see the Proceedings before the Grant of Probate

In case you intend to oppose Grant of Probate, You should file in the Office of Prothonotary and Senior Master, a Caveat within 14 days of service of this Citation upon you.

"You are hereby informed that free legal services from the State Legal Service Authority, High court Legal Services Committee, District Legal Services Authority and Taluka Legal Services Committee, as per eligibility criteria are available to you and in case, you are eligible and desire to avail the free Legal services, you may contact any of the above Legal Service Authorities/ Committee."

WITNESS
SHRI SANJAY VIJAYKUMAR GANGAPURWALA, ACTING Chief Justice at Bombay aforesaid, this 17th day of January 2023.
Red Seal of Bombay High Court
Sd/-
For ***Prothonotary and Senior Master***
Sd/- For **R.N. SUKHIJA**
Advocate for Petitioners
Sd/- ***Sealer***
This 19th Day of January 2023

W.S. INDUSTRIES (INDIA) LIMITED
CIN: L29142TN1961PLC004568
Regd. Office: 108, Mount Poonamallee Road, Porur, Chennai - 600 116
Email ID: sectl@wsigroup.in Website: www.wsindustries.in/KYC

PRESS RELEASE

The Company has expanded the Infrastructure business including execution of Turnkey Projects in the verticals of electrical, EPC and construction projects. There was a change in the management of the Company in the month of June 2022. The Infrastructure vertical of the business is driven by the new promoter group who have extensive experience in this line of business. Under the stewardship of the new management, the Company has achieved a profit before tax from continuing operations for the **third quarter ended 31.12.2022 for INR 592.59 Lakhs with an EBITDA of INR 710.39 Lakhs and for nine months ended 31.12.2022 for INR 358.99 Lakhs with an EBITDA of INR 605.65 Lakhs.**

The Company's Revenue from operations for the **third quarter ended 31.12.2022 stands at INR 2494.33 Lakhs and for nine months ended 31.12.2022 stands at INR 2896.93 Lakhs.**

With the relevant expertise in the infrastructure business, the new management intends to develop IT/ITES infrastructure in the remaining land parcel of the Company and the necessary project related works have already commenced. The Company is also evaluating opportunities in other emerging sectors and shall promptly update the stakeholders upon finalization of the business strategies.

The Company has made significant strides in the turn around and is confident that the days ahead will be very exciting considering the huge infra push by the government.

For W.S.Industries (India) Limited
S.Nagarajan
Chairman

Date : 09.02.2023
Place : Chennai

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Mandya

No. 18/2022-2023 Dated: 06-02-2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR Construction of Building works in Mandya District

Tender in Two cover system is invited from qualified Eligible contractors for the works pertaining to **Mandya Division** through e-procurement portal as per Standard bid document KW-4. The eligible contractors can participate in this tender through e-procurement portal **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** Pre-bid Meeting will be held on 14-02-2023 at 11.00 am in the Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Mandya. Documents may be downloaded from 07-02-2023. Last date for Queries 17-02-2023 upto 4.00 pm, Last date for submission of tender 21-02-2023 upto 4.00 pm, Date of opening Technical bid 23-02-2023 at 11.00 am onwards, Financial bid will be opened on 27-02-2023 at 11 am onwards or next Office working day. Tender Processing Fees as per E-Procurement & Duration including Monsoon 11 months, Number of works: 1, Estimate Amount Maximum **Rs. 1950.00** Lakhs, EMD as per E-Procurement. For more information contact the above office during Office Hours.

Sd/- EE., PWD Division, Mandya

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. DIVISION, GADAG.
Phone No : 08372-238782 Fax No. 08372-237268
E.Mail : eepwdgad@gmail.com
No: EEPWDGDG PB- 5054 MDR Bridge : 2022-23/7062 Dt.:08-02-23

Short Term Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, Public works department. Division,Gadag invites itemwise tenders from eligible tenderers of 01 work of total amount of Rs -**2650.00** Lakh (Min estimate amount: Rs.**2650.00** Lakhs to Max Estimate Amount: **2650.00** Lakhs) for the **5054** MDR Briadge Appendix-e Head of account on behalf of the Hon'able Governor of Karnataka as per Standard Bid Document KW- 4 through e-procurement. - http:// www. eproc. Karnataka. gov.in/ (a) Pre Bid Meeting Date:**13-02-2023** (b) Last Date for Clarification upto :**15-02-2023**, (c) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **16-02-2023** (c) Opening of Technical Bid Date: **17-02-2023** (d) Opening of Financial Bid Date:- **20-02-2023**
Work Indent No: **162026 -Call-2**

The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in clause 3 of the instructions to tenderers to qualify for award of the contract. For further information contact the office of The Executive Engineer, PWD Division Gadag (08372-238782) during office hours.

GST shall be paid separately as per prevailing Government Order. The increase in GST shall not be paid in the extended period of contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time.

DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/631/2022-23
Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Division, Gadag.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. DIVISION, GADAG.
Phone No : 08372-238782 Fax No. 08372-237268
E.Mail : eepwdgad@gmail.com
No: EEPWDGDG PB- 5054 MDR Bridge : 2022-23/7062 Dt.:08-02-23

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DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/631/2022-23
Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Division, Gadag.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DIVISION BIDAR

No EE/MI&GWD/BDR/TS-1/Tender/2022-23/179 Date: 06-02-2023

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER DETAILS

1) Name of Works : As mentioned in e-Portal, 2) Estimate cost of Work: As mentioned in e-Portal, 3) Eligibility of Contractor : As mentioned in e-Portal, 4) Amount put to tender : As mentioned in e-Portal, 5) Cost of tender form & Details of EMD : As mentioned in e-Portal, 6) Last Date of clarification of tender for KW-4: 17-02-2023 Up to 17-00 Hours, 7) Last date for Receipt of Tenders for KW-4 : 22-02-2023 Up to 16.00 Hours, 8) Date of Opening of Technical bid KW-4 : 24-02-2023 at 11.00 Hours if possible, 9) Date of Opening of Financial Bid KW-4 : 28.02.2023 at 11.00 Hours if possible, 10) Pre-Bid meeting Place, date & time for KW-KW-4: Office of the, Ex.Engr.MI & GWD Divn. Partapnagar, Naubad, Bidar on 10.02.2023 at 11.00 AM. 11) For any clarification and details , office to be contacted : Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division Bidar Phone/ Fax : 08482 232080, 12) Website details : e-procurement portal www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/Bidar/455/MC&A/2022-23
Sd/- Executive Engineer MI & GWD Division, Bidar

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
DEPARTMENT OF HANDLOOMS
TENDER NOTICE FOR PROCESSING OF UNIFORM CLOTH

Sealed tenders with two cover systems in the prescribed format are invited **only from the interested eligible parties** for Processing of Uniform Cloth under Supply of Uniform Scheme for the Academic Year 2023-2024.

S. No.	Cloth Variety	Shade	Required Quantity to be processed in lakh metres	Required Earnest money deposit (Rs.)	Sale period	Last date and time for receipt of tender	Date and time of opening of Tender	Supply Period
1.	Polycot Drill	Green	35.48	10,00,000/-	09.02.2023 to 14.03.2023 upto 10.30 a.m.	14.03.2023 upto 11.00 a.m.	14.03.2023 at 12.00 Noon.	180 days
		Sandal	60.22					
		Total	**95.70**					
2.	Polycot Casement	Green	27.53					
		Sandal	67.08					
		Total	**94.61**					
3.	Polycot Checked Shirting	Checked Shirting	203.09					
		Total	**203.09**					
		Grand Total	**393.40**					

Eligibility of the Tenderer and Other conditions are stipulated in the Tender Schedule.
1.The tender Schedule can be downloaded at **free of cost** from Government tender website **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** and used for bidding.
2. If requested to send through Post : By Demand Draft – **Rs.5,700/-** in favour of **"Yarn Committee for FDS 2014"** payable at **Chennai City (inclusive of 12% GST).**
Interested tenderers are requested to submit the tender schedule duly filled, **in separate covers and it should be sent in a sealed envelope superscribing "Tender for Processing of Uniform Cloth"** addressed to **"The Joint Director (Uniforms) /Tender Inviting Authority, O/o Commissioner of Handlooms, Kuralagam, II Floor, Chennai - 600 104".**
Pre Bid Meeting : There will be a pre bid meeting on **20.02.2023** at **11.00 a.m.** in the Conference Hall of the Commissionerate of Handlooms, Chennai-104.
Contact : Joint Director (Uniforms),Telephone:044-25358715, Fax:044-25351177
Email ID : tenderwing2020@gmail.com

DIPR/831/TENDER/2023
Joint Director (Uniforms)/ Tender Inviting Authority

" சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
MADURAI HIGHWAYS, PROJECTS CIRCLE

TENDER NOTICE
Short Term T.N. No. 6 / 2022-23 / SDO, Dated: 07.02.2023

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, **Percentage Tender under two cover system through online only** will be received upto **01.03.2023 15.00 hours** by the Superintending Engineer (H), Projects, Madurai Circle for the work of **" Forming Kamuthi By-pass road brancing from km.16/4 of Mudukulathur- Kamuthi road (MDR) and Joinig at km 30/0 of Parthibanur - Kamuthi - Aruppukottai road (SH - 47) Km 0/0-6/4 (Length of 6.40 Km)"** pertaining to Madurai (H), Projects Division.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from **10.02.2023** onwards in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in.** If any Changes / Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

DIPR /821/ Tender / 2023
Superintending Engineer (H), Projects, Madurai Circle.

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம். சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of My client **Sri.N.Bettaswamy S/o Late Nanjappa** to bring the notice of the general public that the original registered first & second page of absolute sale deed, bearing Doc.No. LAG-1-08525/2012-13, CD No.LAGD213, date.20.03.2013, registered in the office of the sub-register, Laggere, Bangalore, executed by **Sri.Rajanna s/o Sri.Gopalaiah,** in favour of **Sri.N.Bettaswamy S/o Late Nanjappa** is missing / lost / misplaced in respect of schedule property.
If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the residential immovable property bearing Eastern portion of site **No.38,** assessment No.126/2, **now BBMP ward No.70,** measuring East to West 15-0 feet and North to South 40-0 feet, in all measuring 600 Sq.feet, Situated at **Laggere Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,** Now comes under the Limits of BBMP, Bangalore and bounded by:
East by : Property No.39, West by : Western portion of Site No.38, North by : Property No.17, South by : 15-0 feet Road.

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU BENCH
CA (CAA) NO. 50/BB/2022
IN THE MATTER OF SECTIONS 230 AND 232 OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013
AND
IN THE MATTER OF SCHEME OF AMALGAMATION OF DRISHTI-SOFT SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED

(a private limited Company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956, bearing CIN U72900KA2003PTC156767. The Registered office of the Company is situated at 351, 3rd and 4th Floor, Salarpuria Tower-I, Hosur Road, Near Forum Mall, Koramangala, 7th Block, Bengaluru – 560095)

AND

EXOTEL TECHCOM PRIVATE LIMITED

(a private limited Company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956, bearing CIN U72900KA2011PTC059065. The Registered office of the Company is situated at No-22, 2nd Floor, Commercial building, Kensington terrace, Kensington road, Halasuru, Bengaluru - 560008)

NOTICE OF DISPENSATION OF THE MEETINGS OF THE COMPANIES

Notice is hereby given that the Honourable National Company Law Tribunal at Bengaluru ("the Tribunal") vide its Order dated January 24, 2023 has dispensed with the convening of meeting of the equity shareholders of Drishti-Soft Solutions Private Limited ("Transferor Company"), meeting of secured creditors and unsecured creditors of Exotel Techcom Private Limited ("Transferee Company") and meeting of unsecured creditors of the Transferor Company pursuant to Scheme of Amalgamation of Transferor Company with Transferee Company and their respective shareholders and creditors under sections 230-232 of the Companies Act, 2013.

Sd/-
Authorized Signatory
Transferor Company and Transferee Company
Date: 08-02-2023
Place: Bengaluru

BIBLIOGRAPHY

A view of the Aligarh Muslim University campus. THE HINDU

Tracing the roots of Aligarh and its famous university, often hailed as a mini-India

Aligarh Muslim University has given the town itself a facelift. Many luminaries have graced the halls of AMU, and it remains an oasis of learning amid uncertainties and controversies that surround the old town

Ziya Us Salam

There is something about Aligarh that tells us that the past never dies. It merely reinvents itself to suit contemporary demands. Back in 1937, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, soon to transform into Quaid-e-Azam, took the route with a rare flourish. Recalling the Muslim League session in Lucknow in 1937, author-journalist Mohammed Wajihuddin writes in his persuasively argued, lucidly expressed book, *Aligarh Muslim University*, "The October 1937 Lucknow session was so important to Jinnah that he discarded his well-cut suits and donned flowing trousers and a long coat. From Mr. Jinnah, he transformed into Janab Jinnah and Quaid-e-Azam. While he had kept himself aloof from ordinary Muslims, now he began mingling with them....He travelled extensively, and Aligarh became a regular place to visit during these travels." Around the same time, he raised the rhetorical slogan of 'Islam in danger' too.

Passing storm(s)

The following year when Jinnah visited AMU, which had begun as the Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College in 1875, he was given a rousing welcome. The students' union made him an honorary life member. "It was a tradition the union had followed since 1920, when Mahatma Gandhi was given this membership. In those days they would also put up a portrait of the guests they honoured on the Union Club's wall. It was such a portrait of Jinnah's at the AMU Students' Union Club that created a storm on the campus on May 2, 2018," writes Wajihuddin.

The storm, essentially a passing one, was caused by local MP Satish Gautam writing to the Vice Chancellor Tariq Mansoor demanding the removal of Jinnah's portrait from the campus. The demand was not conceded but it made sure the university was in the spotlight, and as a consequence, Aligarh remained in the headlines for days on end. Like it did when the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act protests hit the campus in December 2019. Controversies and Aligarh seem to go together. Yet, AMU, despite frequent protests, occasional violence and various stirs, seems to be an island by itself wherein students seek knowledge, chart out great careers and soak in its culture just as the university's founder Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, would have advised them. As academic-literary critic Shafey Kidwai, author of *Sir Syed Ahmad Khan: Reason, Religion and Nation*, said, "The question of his (Jinnah's) glorification does not arise, but the university's job is to protect the truth of history. His photo was there as the hall carried the names and photographs of all who visited it. The list incudes Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Maulana Azad and Sarojini Naidu." Unsurprisingly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called it 'mini-India' in an online address.

The story of a name

AMU has the unique distinction of taking along with it the name of the township where it is based, and giving the town itself a facelift. Otherwise, known for its brassware and lock industries, Aligarh has a chequered past, one that has seen many a nawab, maharaja or local leader make an attempt to leave an indelible impression on the town; the most recent one being an attempt by zila panchayat members to rename the place Harigarh. Vijay Singh, zila panchayat chairman, stated, "It was a long-pending demand to rename Aligarh as Harigarh." He was probably referring to a similar call given in the late 1970s by members of the Jan Sangh, the precursor of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). At that time, a new temple was also called Harigarh Mandir. Nevertheless, the demand to rename the place died down soon enough.

There is an interesting tale behind the name of Aligarh. It was initially called Kol or Koil. Though obscurity surrounds the origin of Kol, according to Edwin Atkinson, who compiled the first gazetteer of the district, the name Kol was given by Balram who slew the great Asura called Kol over here. Noted medieval India historian, Syed Ali Nadeem Rezavi, explained the genealogy of the place, at the height of the Harigarh controversy, stating, "Sometime before the Muslim invasion, Kol is said to have been held by the Dor Rajputs. Sultanate period sources, both Persian and non-Persian, mention Kol as a centre for the production of distilled wine. The sources of the period of Alauddin Khalji mention this town as Iqta Kol; Iqta was an administrative unit." It continued to be called Kol during the Mughal age too with Emperor Jahangir calling it Kol in his memoirs.

However, things changed in the 18th century. The Jats captured the fort briefly and called it Ramgarh, quite removed from the earlier nomenclature of Sabitgarh and Muhammadgarh. Then came the Marathas who dubbed the fort as Aligarh after their governor Najaf Ali Khan. By the 19th century, the town itself came to be called Aligarh. Some locals dispute this fact-based assertion, claiming Aligarh is named after Hazrat Ali, the last caliph and son-in-law of Prophet Muhammad.

City of joy

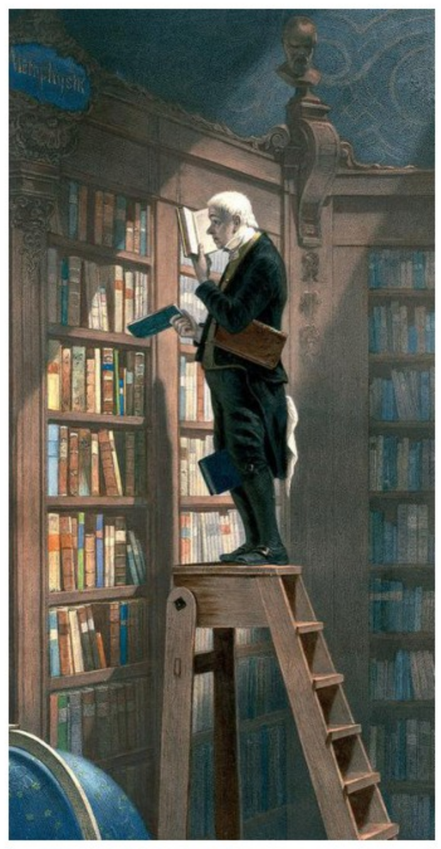
In reality, Aligarh, not Kolkata, was the original City of Joy; it was only in 1985 that Dominique Lapierre called Kolkata the City of Joy. Some 50 years before that, popular Urdu poet Asrar-ul-Haq Majaz had called Aligarh as 'Shahr-e-Tarab' or the City of Joy! Moreover, Aligarh, and AMU, whose tarana (anthem) was penned by Majaz, transmits joy.

Here studied Begum Para, the heroine of the first talkie Alam Ara. In her painstakingly researched and elegantly produced book, *The Allure of Aligarh*, Huma Khalil writes, "The musical leanings of Padma Bhushan winner Talat Mahmood...can be traced back to when he used to sing the works of Ghalib and Mir, at the age of 16 in the school functions of Minto Circle. Award-winning film and theatre actor Naseeruddin Shah is still remembered as the finest badminton player of the university." Not to forget Anubhav Sinha, Surekha Sikri and Zarina Hashmi. Incidentally, Hashmi brought Aligarh to her canvas. A mathematics graduate from AMU, Hashmi had seen villages burning around Aligarh in 1947 and could never forget her home and relatives who were dispersed in the violence.

If violence was here, could prayers have been far behind? Not quite. Hence, besides its historic mosque where countless students stand in neat rows for prayers, Aligarh has the age-old Khereshwar temple which, Khalil tells us, "is the oldest Shiva temple". Tansen's guru, Swami Haridas, lived here and Mughal emperors are said to have come down to the temple "to witness the magic of raga Malhaar".

The persistence of knowledge

Of course, Aligarh has been a happy host to the annual numaish (exhibition) and for years its students frequented Tasveer Mahal, one of a dozen cinema halls in the city. Tasveer Mahal was more than a cinema. It was like a gateway to the University, a rendezvous point for students in the evening. It's all gone now. What remains untouched is the determination of the students to learn. As Khalil recounts in her book, "Ilm (knowledge) is the second most used word in the Quran after Allah; Aligarh's motto captures this ethos, '(Allah) taught man what he knew not'." As youngsters seek to know more and more, Aligarh is like the body and AMU its soul.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Mr. L R. Srivatsava of Hyderabad wants to know the difference between 'employment' and 'profession.'"

"When you are in employment, you have regular work and are paid for what you do. The work can be any kind of work. 'Profession' refers to any occupation requiring 'advanced education and highly specialised training'. Once 'profession' referred only to the three learned professions – law, medicine and theology. The word denoted intellectual work rather than manual labour. Now the tendency is to use the word with almost every kind of work to give the work respectability.

I am a tailor by profession.
He is a plumber by profession. "

"Mr. Muhammed Ashraf Tamton of Cannanore wants to know the meaning of 'stool pigeon.'"

"A stool pigeon is a pigeon used as a decoy to tempt birds into a net. A decoy is a real or imitation bird or animal used to attract others so that they may be caught or shot. A stool pigeon when used figuratively means a person who acts as a decoy in order to trap someone.

He was used as a stool pigeon by the police to catch the thief.

The pigeon used as decoy was perhaps tied to a stool and hence the expression 'stool pigeon.'"

"Mr. N. C. Bose of Calcutta would like to know whether 'dislike' as a verb can be followed by 'to.'"

" 'Dislike' as a verb is followed by a noun or a gerund and not by 'to + verb'. 'Like' is followed by 'to' or a gerund or a noun.

I like to go there.
I like going there.
I like the place.
I dislike him.
I dislike going there.

I dislike watching TV; but not 'I dislike to watch TV.'

I dislike giving advice to others.
He dislikes sitting on committees.

The verb 'enjoy' also behaves in a similar way.

I enjoyed my dinner.
I enjoyed her company.
He enjoyed talking to her.
She enjoyed cleaning the room.
He enjoys reading great classics.

But you can't say 'He enjoyed to read books.' He enjoyed reading books.

He enjoys watching TV and not 'He enjoys to watch TV.'"

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On this date in 1895, William G. Morgan created the game that we today refer to as volleyball. A quiz on the popular game

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
In which institution did Morgan create the game and what did he initially call it?

QUESTION 2
How many players to a side on the court and what is the player, who should touch the ball every time a team has the ball, called?

QUESTION 3
How many touches is a team allowed before it is returned over the net?

QUESTION 4
What is the defensive specialist who is not allowed to serve or rotate to the front line called and how is he/she identified?

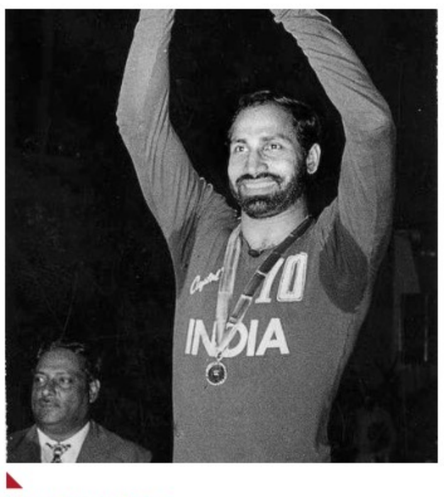
QUESTION 5
In which European city is the Fédération Internationale de Volley Ball (FIVB), the governing body for the game, headquartered?

QUESTION 6
What is the 'floater'?

QUESTION 7
How many players make up a side in beach volleyball that was introduced in California in 1930?

QUESTION 8
How does the referee indicate that a back-row player has tried to block?

QUESTION 9
Apart from the former Soviet Union, which two other nations have won three Olympic men's volleyball gold medals?



Visual question:
One of India's most famous sportspersons, he was the first Indian volleyball player to become a professional. Name him. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. These two films of Scorsese explore the theme of Catholic guilt and follow the story of an Italian-American boy. **Ans: *Who's That Knocking at My Door, Mean Streets;* Harvey Keitel**

2. This film follows the story of a mother who travels with her preteen son across the U.S. This actress potrayed the role. **Ans: *Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore*, Ellen Burstyn**

3. This is an epic religious drama film, adapted from a controversial novel of the same name written by this individual. **Ans: *The Last Temptation of Christ* by Nikos Kazantzakis**

4. This film is based on the writings of the 14th Dalai Lama. **Ans: *Kundun*; it is a term by which the Dalai Lama is addressed.**

5. The *Aviator* is an American film based on this personality played by this actor. **Ans: Howard Hughes, Leonardo DiCaprio**

Visual: Identify this film and the French illusionist portrayed in this film. **Ans: *Hugo*; Georges Méliès**

Early Birds: K. N. Viswanathan| M. Suresh Kumar| Jayasree. D| V. Siddhartha

Word of the day

Confabulate:
unconsciously replace fact with fantasy in one's memory; talk socially without exchanging too much information; have a conference in order to talk something over (used as a verb)

Synonyms: chatter, visit, gossip, chat, chit-chat, natter, confer, consult

Usage: *I had just got done with a major assignment and was just confabulating with the others.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/confabulatepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kənˈfabjʊleɪt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

'Auto drivers demand excess fare even at pre-fixed stands'

Auto drivers demand fare on a par with that on aggregator apps; traffic police booked 2,179 cases for demanding excess fare last year

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Traffic Police have revived pre-fixed auto stands across the city in an attempt to resolve what has been an eternal problem: auto drivers haggling for excess fares over the meter.

However, even at these stands, the police personnel themselves are allegedly nudging passengers to pay more fare over the meter, many people now complain.

A social media user on Monday wrote about how a BTP officer, posted at the M.G. Road prepaid auto stand, urged the user to pay ₹10 more than the pre-fixed rate, as the driver did not want to take the ride otherwise.

Even at pre-fixed auto stands, drivers often check what is the fare for the destination in aggregator apps, which is usually higher than the autorickshaw meter fare, and demand the same.

Auto unions also acknowledged that at some stands, these problems are prevalent. "We do not know exactly if there is a nexus at the newly established stands, but near the city railway station, there is definitely some kind of understanding between the police and the auto drivers," said C.N. Srinivasan, of the Autorickshaw Drivers' Union (ARDU).

Auto unions also acknowledged that at some stands, the problem is prevalent. FILE PHOTO

He added that it had come to their notice that drivers demand extra fare over the prescribed meter fare, as they have realised that people are ready to pay higher fares on transport apps.

When quizzed on the issue, M.A. Saleem, Special Commissioner (Traffic), Bengaluru, said: "The prepaid stand at the railway station is managed by the railway police. But in our stands, the approximate fare is indicated and the passengers should pay accordingly. If the driver or the officer asks them to pay more, then they should bring it to our notice".

In 2022, the BTP booked 2,183 cases against auto drivers for refusal to go for hire and 2,179 cases for demanding excess fare.

IISc, SSIR join hands for R&D in electrostatic discharge protection

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Institute of Science and Samsung Semiconductor India Research (SSIR) have joined hands to promote research and development in the field of on-chip electrostatic discharge (ESD) protection.

The partnership seeks to build cutting-edge ESD device solutions to protect ultra-high-speed serial interfaces in advanced integrated circuits (ICs) and system-on-chip (SoC) products. Prof. Mayank Shrivastava's group will conduct the related research at the Department of Electronic Systems Engineering, IISc.

Solutions arising from this research will be deployed in Samsung's advanced process nodes.

ICs and SoCs are essential for practically any system we see around us, from small to big. However, they are very sensitive to ESD failures, especially those developed using advanced nanoscale CMOS (Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor) technologies. Most IC chip failures and field returns are attributed to ESD failures.

This is also rare expertise, and industries holding the art of designing ESD protection devices and interface concepts lead the market. Thus, R&D in ESD technology for highly reliable interfaces and SoCs that operate at low power and high speed is an integral part of the semiconductor innovation effort. IISc is one of the few institutes in the world leading ESD device research.

Capacity building

"Our goal is also to increase capacity building through training programmes at the postgraduate level, opening up opportunities for students to pursue industry internships, and encourage entrepreneurial ventures by young researchers," said Balajee Sowrirajan, CVP & MD, SSIR.

"We have been collaborating extensively with semiconductor industries worldwide on advanced nanoelectronics technologies, including solutions to ESD reliability threats to advanced SoCs. We have carried out both fundamental and applied research on ESD protection devices, with a strong emphasis on creating practical solutions for the semiconductor industry in a range of technology nodes," said Mayank Shrivastava, who heads MSDLab and will lead this collaborative effort.

Three held for robbing pedestrians

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Alert Kengeri police on Wednesday arrested a gang of three for robbing valuables of people walking on the road .

The accused have been identified as Hitesh Kumar, 19, of J.C. Nagar, Vinod Vijay, 21, of Mahalakshmi Layout, and Vishnuvardhana, 20, from Nagadevanahalli. They were caught when police constable Venkataramanappa and two of his colleagues on duty, intercepted them while moving suspiciously in residential areas on Monday evening.

Stolen bikes

After keeping a tab on the accused for sometime, the police confronted the trio riding a bike and scooter and brought them to station for questioning. A detailed questioning led them to confess that they had stolen the bikes from Byadarahalli and Chandra Layout police station limits.

The modus operandi of the accused was to move around residential areas in stolen bikes to identify people walking alone and snatch their valuables. Based on their confession, the police have recovered six mobile phones which the accused had robbed in and around the city.

INBRIEF

All-night music fest on Feb. 11

Gururao Deshpande Sangeet Sabha, Bengaluru, will hold the 38th Gayanacharya Gururao Deshpande and Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Rashtreeya Sangeet Mahotsav, an all-night music festival, on February 11. According to a release, the artistes at the event include Pt. Ashwini Bhide Deshpande, Pt. Vinayak Torvi, Vidushi Manali Bose, Yashwant Vaishnav, Shadaj Godkhindi, and Siddhartha Belmannu. Pandita Ashwini Bhide Deshpande, eminent Hindustani classical vocalist, will be conferred the "Gururao Deshpande Rashtreeya Sangeet Puraskar-Guru Gandharv" on the occasion. The event will be held at Ravindra Kalakshetra from 9 p.m.

From Page One

ISRO, Navy conduct key trials for Gaganyaan

WSTF, Kochi, is a state-of-the-art facility of the Indian Navy that provides realistic training of aircrew for escape from a ditched aircraft under varied simulated conditions and crash scenarios. WSTF simulates different sea state conditions, environmental conditions, and day/night conditions.

"These trials assist in validating the SoP, and training recovery teams as well as the flight crew. They provide valuable inputs for the utilization of recovery accessories. The feedback from the recovery team/trainers helps improve the recovery operations SoP, design various recovery accessories, and finalize the training plan," ISRO added.

The Gaganyaan project envisages demonstration of human spaceflight capability by launching a crew of three members to an orbit of 400 km for a three day mission and bringing them back safely to earth, by landing in Indian sea waters. The first trial (uncrewed flight) for Gaganyaan is being planned by the end of 2023 or early 2024. This will be followed by sending Vyom Mitra, a humanoid and then with the crew onboard.

Study finds developmental trajectories of mental abilities continue to grow through years

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

A collaborative study by researchers from India, U.K., and other European countries has found that developmental trajectories of mental abilities continue to develop through childhood, adolescence, and even into early adulthood.

The study, published in the Asian Journal of Psychiatry this month, examined cross-sectional growth trajectories for executive functions and social cognition in young people. This will enable doctors to track child development and in the future may be helpful for risk identification of mental health problems in later life..

Eesha Sharma from the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at NIMHANS, who is the lead author of the study, told *The Hindu* that the study is based on the cVEDA (Consortium on Vulnerability to Externalizing Disorders and Addictions) study, an Indian population based developmental cohort.

Led by Vivek Benegal, Professor of Psychiatry at NIMHANS, the cVEDA study collected and assessed neuro-developmental data of more than 9,000 Indian children, adolescents and adults, aged 6-23 years. There were seven recruitment centres (representing north, north-east, east, and south India) that varied in risk profiles (socio-economic status and childhood adversity). Cognitive abilities are markers of brain development and psychopathology.

"In the present study on developmental trajectories of mental abilities over childhood, adolescence and into early adulthood, we analysed baseline (cross-sectional) data from the cVEDA study. We examined several abilities like working memory (the ability to hold information temporarily to carry out daily activities), self-regulation (the ability to inhibit our responses as per the demands of a situation), cognitive flexibility (the ability to think alternatively), social cognition (in terms of the ability to identify social blunders) and emotion recognition (the ability to identify facial emotional expressions). We found that all the abilities continued to develop through childhood and adolescence," Dr. Sharma explained. According to the study, cognitive developmental trajectories showed that working memory matures earliest, followed by inhibitory control, and then cognitive flexibility, over age spanning 6-23 years. Among social cognition abilities, theory of mind related capacities developed in childhood, whereas emotional abilities continued development into adulthood, the study stated.

In early adulthood

Dr. Sharma explained that while working memory, self-regulation and social cognition matured in adolescence, cognitive flexibility and emotion recognition continued to mature even in early adulthood. "This suggests that developmental changes continue in the human brain beyond childhood. Adolescents and young adults are still maturing in their abilities to respond to situations and to regulate themselves," she said.

On the finding about poverty and adverse childhood experiences (abuse, neglect, and others) negatively impacting the growth of the examined developmental abilities, she said. "Growing minds in children, adolescents and adults require conducive and positive environments to maximize their developmental potential. Therefore, there is a long-standing and urgent need, now supported by empirical evidence, to focus on improving these basic support systems, such as safe and enriching spaces for youth," she said.

Unpaid wages

Temporary workers of the BBMP and pourakarmikas protesting at the BBMP head office in the city on Wednesday demanding their pending monthly wages. K. MURALI KUMAR

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, FEB. 09		
RISE	06:44	SET 18:23
RISE	21:19	SET 09:02
FRIDAY, FEB. 10		
RISE	06:44	SET 18:24
RISE	22:06	SET 09:38
SATURDAY, FEB. 11		
RISE	06:44	SET 18:24
RISE	22:54	SET 10:14

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	20
Mysuru	32	14
Bengaluru	31	18

Bengaluru Today
31°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be slight warm. Night will be slight cool with haze and mist.

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THE HINDU
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AITUC demands minimum wage be fixed at ₹31,500 per month

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) Karnataka, on Wednesday, insisted that State and Central governments should fix minimum wage in the ₹31,500 per month range considering the precarious position of the labour class after the pandemic, especially in the present sky-rocketing inflationary scenario.

Members of the All India Trade Union Congress protesting at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

In the absence of a scientific study by the government, AITUC submitted a scientific study based on present-day price realities and in line with the legal norms, establishing the need for ₹31,500 as the minimum wage, it said in a statement. The sky-rocketing inflation over the past five years combined with the contraction of the economy and jobs under the pandemic had placed the working class in a precarious position, it said.

AITUC also held a massive protest at Freedom Park against the "anti-worker" policies of the State and central governments. Over 8,000 workers from across the State representing various sectors such as construction, anganwadi and mid-day meal scheme, besides industrial workers, and beedi and plantation segments participated. "The objective of the protest was to press the State government to notify the minimum wages in accordance with the established scientific and legal norms," said D.A. Vijaybhaskar, General Secretary, AITUC. However, the government, in violation of the norms has chosen to provide a paltry 10% increase for the past five years in minimum wages, which was illegal, arbitrary and unfair," he added.

City to host G20 climate sustainability working group meeting from today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The first Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) meeting under the G20 Presidency of India will begin here on Thursday.

The three-day meet is hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and will be chaired by Leena Nandan, secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

To adopt an integrated, comprehensive and consensus-driven approach to tackling the challenges of climate change, several delegates from the G20 countries, along with representatives of international organisations, will participate in the meeting.

Ms. Richa Sharma, additional secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, said that key environmental concerns would be addressed in the working group meeting, arresting land degradation, accelerating ecosystem restoration, enriching Biodiversity, promoting a sustainable and climate-resilient blue economy and encouraging resource efficiency and circular economy. She added that the first meeting of ECSWG is planned over three days, including a side event to witness ecosystem restoration and biodiversity enrichment practices at Bengaluru. The G20 delegates are scheduled to visit the Kalkere Arboretum and Bannerghatta Biological Park in Bengaluru.

The subsequent ECSWG meetings will take place at Gandhinagar, Mumbai, and Chennai.

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
O & M Circle, Shivamogga - 577201
Ph: 08182 - 08182-225544 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No: No: SEE/SMG/O&MC/AEE(C)/2022-23/15218-23 Date: 06.02.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION - Call-2 (Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

MESCOM invites tenders through e-Procurement mode only from the Registered KPWD contractors having EPF, ESI, GSTand Labour Department Registration for Civil works bearing Indent No. 1880, 1881, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1903, 1904, 1913, 1914 & 1915 for Call-2.

For detailed information and to participate in the tender through e-procurement mode please access the tendering website **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in on** or after **09.02.2023, 11.00 am.** Any other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superinteding Engineer (Elecl), O&M Circle Shimoga

For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

TAMIL NADU INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

3rd Floor, CMDA Building Tower-II, 'Thalamuthu-Natarajan Maaligai', No.1, Gandhi Irwin Road, Egmore,Chennai – 600 008
Phone: 044-28594366 / 28550155/255/355/455;
E-mail: soinfra.findpt@tn.gov.in, Website: www.tnidb.tn.gov.in

INVITATION FOR PROPOSAL

Appointment of Consultant to prepare Environmental and Social Management Instruments for Chennai City Partnership – Urban Mobility and Spatial Development (UMSD) Project.

1. The Chief Executive Officer, Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Board invites proposals from consulting firms to prepare Environmental and Social Management Instruments for Chennai City Partnership – Urban Mobility and Spatial Development (UMSD) Project.
2. Request for Proposal (RfP) may be downloaded from the website - **https://tnidb.tn.gov.in** or may be obtained from the office of the CEO, TNIDB. Such downloaded tender document shall be accompanied by Bid Security (EMD) of **Rs. 50,000/-.**
3. A pre-bid meeting for the prospective applicants is scheduled on **17.02.2023** at **15:00 Hours.**
4. Proposals complete in all respect must be delivered in the office of Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Board (TNIDB), 3rd floor, CMDA Building Tower-II, 'Thalamuthu Natarajan Maaligai', No.1, Gandhi Irwin Road, Egmore, Chennai – 600 008 on or before **15.00 Hours** on **06.03.2023.**
5. All other details are available in the Request for Proposal (RfP).

The Chief Executive Officer, TNIDB

DIPR/118/Display/2023

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

Office off the Chief Medical Officer Taluk General Hospital. Sira Tumkur Dist, Pin cod-572137

Email Id:gh.sira82@gmail.com Tel No:08135-275212

No.GHS/N.GR.D/91/2023-24 Dated:25.01.2023

Office Memorandum

Sub: Tender Offering For Providing Group D And Non Clinical Services to Taluk general Hospital Sira.

Tender Offering For Providing Group D And Non Clinical Services to Taluk general Hospital Sira By Out Source During The Perid 2023-24, Tender Onlive Slate Will be opening as http//eproc.karnataka.gov.in Date: 25.01.2023 To 24.02.2023 Time 4.00PM. If anu Enquires please Contact as Chief Medical Officer Taluk General Hospital, Sira in Office Timings only.

E-Procurement Portal Tender Date And Time Statement

Particular and Date & Time: 1. Tender Publishing Date & Time: 25.01.2023 11.00Am 2. E-Procuremetn Tender State Open As:25.01.2023 11.00AM. 3. Last Date & Time For Receipt of Tender: 24.02.2023 4.00PM 4. Last Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid: 01.03.2023 11.00AM. 5. Last Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid:03.03.2023 11.00AM. In Case of any Government Holydays Date and Time will be Postponed Next Working Days.

Sd/- Chief Medical Officer, General Hospital, Sira, Tumkur Dist.

DIPR/TUM/936/KSMCA/2022-23

:ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ:

Office of the Executive Engineer, Bagalkote Town Development Authority, Division No:01, Bagalkote-587102.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08354–295372 E-mail: btdadn1@gmail.com

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಾನಿಇ೦/ಬಾ.ಪ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ/ವಿ–1/ಪಿಬಿ–01/ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ–11/2022–23/4348 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08–02–2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No: 11 (Through e-Procurement only)

Tenders are invited by the under signed from registered eligible contractors for work Indent No: 1378 and 1186 Costing of Rs. 211.66 Lakhs to Rs. 3498.44 Lakhs. The intending bidders for work details may login to e-procurement website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in for detailed notification and submission of the tender. The tenders can be submitted till 22.02.2023 up to 5.00 PM. Technical bids will be opened on 23.02.2023 at 5.01 PM (if possible) and financial bids will be opened on 24.02.2023 at 11.00 AM (if possible). Any other details can be obtained from this office in person or over telephone number 08354-295372.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, BTDA, Division. No: 01,Bagalkote.

DIPR/BGK/RO-NO-858/KSMCA/2022-23

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: SEE/T(W&M)/MYS/EEE(O)/AE-3/22-23/6448-51 Dt: 07.02.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement Mode Only)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works.

Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/EEE(O)/AE-3/T(W&M)/MYS/ADDL/51 for **"Providing Additional 1X8 MVA 66/11kV Transformer at 66/11kV Gundlupete Substation in Gundlupete Taluk & Chamarajanagara District on PTK basis".**

The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"e-Procurement-KPTCL"** or **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **10.02.2023.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Ele., Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, 1st Floor, Prasarana Bhavana, FTS Compound, N.R. Mohalla, Mysuru-570007. Ph: 0821-2455018

KPC GAS POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

YELAHANKA COMBINED CYCLE POWER PLANT
(CIN : U40102KA1996SGC020337)

No:KPCL/2022-23/BD/WORK_INDENT13429 Date: 04.02.2023

ABSTRACT TENDER NOTIFICATION

(ONLY THROUGH ELECTRONIC TENDERING SYSTEM)

Item rate tenders are invited through GoK e-Procurement platform **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** for the work of **"Repair and improvement works to separator hall, fuel handling pump house & fire hydrant pump house building opposite to old DG plant for storage of GT spares at YCCPP, Yelahanka, Bengaluru."** from any reputed individual/company/contractor registered as Class II & above with KPCL or Class III & above with KPWD are eligible to apply. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 32.70 Lakhs.** Complete details regarding the tender can be obtained from **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**. **EMD:Rs. 65,400/-.** Last date for tender submission: **20.02.2023 up to 17.00 Hours.** Date of opening of Technical Bid: **21.02.2023 at 17.15 hrs** and after opening the technical bid, Financial bid of qualifying bidders will be opened **on 21.02.2023 at 17.30 hrs.** Further details can be collected from **Executive Engineer(M-2)Y, Yelahanka Combined Cycle Power Plant, Doddaballapur Road, S.N Halli Post, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064** during office hours.

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD

3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru.

Notification No. KBH/CE/Edu.Dept/GFGC/AEF/254 to 269 / 2022-23 Dated: 31.01.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement portal)

Karnataka Housing Board has invited package wise tenders through e-procurement from eligible Architectural Engineering Firm (AE firm) for the preparation of building plan/DPR/Drawings/other tender documents and allied services, etc for the work of construction of Government First Grade College Buildings under package (Package 1 to 16)

Last date for submission of bids - 15.02.2023 upto 4.00 PM

For more information contact below mentioned office address & web address below:

Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru. Telephone No. 080-22273511, 080-22100077
email: cheifengineerkhb@gmail.com
web site : www.karnatakahousing.com, https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/VCPL/4555/2022-23

RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, KARNATAKA

4th 'T' Block, Jayanagara, Bengaluru – 560 041,
Ph No.080-26961928 Fax-080-26961929

No:RGU/Proc/Gold Medals/95/2022-23 Date: 07.02.2023

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (RFP)

The Registrar Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences invites tender for tender for Supply Of Gold Medals to RGUHS. More Details on the service are provided in the attached Terms of Reference.

1	Tender document available for downloaded	07/02/2023
2	Pre-Bid Meeting	14/02/2023 12:00 Hrs
3	Last date for receipt of Tender	22/02/2023 17:00 Hrs
4	Opening of Technical Bid	23/02/2023 17:15 Hrs
5	Place of Opening of Tender	Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bengaluru

More details can be fetched from website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

DIPR/4553/2022-23

Sd/- REGISTRAR

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರ ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ
ಕನೀನಿನಿ. ಮ.ಎ.ಕಾ.ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ.2 ನವಿಲುತೀರ್ಥ–591116
ತಾಲೂಕು: ಸವದತ್ತಿ. ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ : ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ. ರಾಜ್ಯ: ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ

ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ಮಕಾನಿವಿ.2/ಡಿಬಿ–1/4701–SCP-TSP/ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ/ 3696/3697/3698/3699/3700/3701/3702/3703 & 3704 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07–02–2023

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ–ಪ್ರೂಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಸಿಸ್ಟಮ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)
(ದ್ವೀ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ)

ಮಾನ್ಯ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರ್, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮ.ಎ.ಕಾ.ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ.2 ನವಿಲುತೀರ್ಥ ಕಚೇರಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 4701 ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ SCP-TSP ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರರಿಂದ ಶೇಕಡಾವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

(Work Indent Numbers. 35511, 35512,35513,35582, 35583, 35585, 35586,35587 & 35588

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.75.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ 300.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳವರೆಗೆ

1. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15–02–2023 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ. 2. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:17–02–2023 ರಂದು 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ, 3. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ :20–02–2023 ರಂದು 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ

ಪೂರ್ವಾರ್ಹತೆ ಕುರಿತಂತೆ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ವಿವರ, ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೂಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಸಿಸ್ಟಮ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಚೇರಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ. 08330 224516 ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವದು.

ಸಹಿ/–(ಶ್ರೀ.ಪಿ.ವ್ಹಿ.ಮುಳ್ಳೂರ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರ,
ಕನೀನಿನಿ. ಮ.ಎ.ಕಾ.ನಿ.ವಿಭಾಗ.ನಂ.2 ನವಿಲುತೀರ್ಥ.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1698/KSMCA/2022-23

Government of Karnataka

Office of The Project Co-ordinator Officer, Integrated Tribal Development Project, Chikkamagaluru.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಗಿ�ಉಯೋಜಿ/ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ/ಸಿಆರ್1/ಹೊ.ಸಂ.ಟೆ/2022–23/670, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.02.2023

e-Tender Notification for providing Outsource Personnel at Pre-Matric & Post-Matric Student Hostels/ Ashrama School/Ekalavya Model Residential School/M.R.D. Residential School/Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Residential Schools coming under the Jurisdiction of Office of The Project Co-ordinator Officer, Integrated Tribal Development Project, Chikkamagaluru District.

Sl. No	Details	Approx. Annual Amount put to Tender	Lump sum Amount	Cost of Tender Book	Class of Tender/ Contractor	Period fixed for supply	Last date for submission of application for Tender Book	Last date for obtaining Tender Information	Last date and time for submission of Tender
1	Regarding e-Tender Notice for availing through Outsource Agencies services of Teaching /Non Teaching personnel vacant at Student Hostels/Ashrama School/ Ekalavya Model Residential School Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Residential School/ Pre-Matric & Post-Matric Boys & Girls Hostels coming under the Jurisdiction of Office of The Project Co-ordinator Officer, Integrated Tribal Development Project, Chikkamagaluru District.	3,50,000,000	7.00 Lakhs	Fee to paid as per e-procurement	Eligible, registered firm	One year		14.03.2023	14.03.2023

DIPR/ckm/No.273/02/mca/22-23/1868

Sd/-Project Co-ordinator Officer, Integrated Tribal Development Project, Chikkamagaluru.

Government of Karnataka

Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Division Ballari

Email: ee_pwdbellary@yahoo.com Telephone No: 08392 -266123

No: EE/PWD/BD/TS-1/2022-23/5477 Dated : 06-02-2023

Short Term Tender Notification (Two Cover System)

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division, Ballari invites the tenders for the works detailed in the table from the eligible contractors registered in Karnataka Public Works Department, through e-procurement portal. Two cover tender procedure as per KTPP Act shall be followed. The tender documents can be downloaded through the web-site http://eproc. karnataka.gov.in. For any additional information the tenderers may contact the office of the undersigned during office working hours. **TABLE**

SI No	Details of Works	Amount of Estimate (Rs. in Lakhs)
1)	KPWD/2022-23/BD/WORK_INDENT154917	3900.00

Note : Any changes either in tender dates or any other conditions, tenderers can view in e_Procurement Portal.

1) Venue, Date and time of Pre Bid Meeting for the work of SI No.(1) : **15-02-2023 at 11.00 AM in the office of the Chief Engineer, PWD, C & B (North-East), Kalaburagi.** 2) Last dates for queries (through e-procurement portal: **17-02-2023 upto 12.00 Hours.** 3) Last date for submission of tenders through e-procurement portal: **21-02-2023 upto 16.00 Hours.** 4) Date and time of opening of Technical Bids: **22-02-2023 at 16.30 Hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari**

DIPR/Ballari/890/KSMCA/2022-23 Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, KALABURAGI

Email:commissionergda@gmail.com

No: KUDA/D.B/ABV/31(21-22)/Ele. SS/2022-23/4544 Date:07-02-2023

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION (CALL-3)

The Commissioner KUDA Kalaburagi invites tender from the eligible tenderers, for the work of Establishing 2x10MVA, 110/11 KV substation on the layout at Kotnoor-D Atal Bihari Vajpayee Kalaburagi with construction of 110 KV LILO line from existing 110 KV Kalaburagi South to Kalaburagi West line for a distance of 1.076Kms for the work of Arranging power supply to an extent of 7488KVA (6365KW) for electrification of residential / Commercial layout at Sy No.s 49, 66, 67, 68, 74, 76, 77, 96, 97 at Kotnoor-D Kalaburagi as per standard tender document KW-4. The tenderers may submit tenders for the work given in the table through e-procurement portal (viz: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) the tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in the instructions to tenders to qualify for the award of the contract and go through the general conditions for eligible tenderers and technical qualification criteria given in the e-portal.

Calender of events :

1) Amount put to tender: **Rs. 11,95,53,028/-,** 2) EMD Amount: Rs. 1.00 Lakhs Through e- portal & Rs.14,00,000/- through FDR/B.G/DD., 3) Period of completion : 10 Months (Including rainy season), 4) Date and time of pre-bid meeting : **06.03.2023 @ 11.00 am,** 5) Last date and time for queries : **07.03.2023 upto 1.30 pm,** 6) Last date for submission of tender : **10.02.2023 @ 11.00 am to 13.03.2023 upto 4.00 pm**, 7) Date of opening of Technical Bid: **15.03.2023 @ 11.00 am**, 8) Date of opening of Financial Bid: **23.03.2023 @ 11.00 am** / After Approval of Technical Bid from Government.

Further details can be sought from the Assistant Executive Engineer, KUDA Kalaburagi during the office hours.

DIP/Kalaburagi/1258/MC&A/2022-23

Sd/- Commissioner Urban Development Authority Kalaburagi

TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED

Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines). E-mail : purchase.rawmatl@tnpl.co.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
222313 006767	Procurement of Liquid PAC (Poly Aluminium Chloride) for Unit-I	23.02.2023
222313 006768	Procurement of Cationic Starch (In Jumbo Bags) for Unit-I	22.02.2023
222313 006765	Procurement of Sodium Silicate - Alkaline for Unit-I	24.02.2023
222313 006766	Procurement of Liquid Chlorine for Unit-I & II	17.02.2023

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL & NIC Website only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in tender document at our websites: **www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.tn.gov.in / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/838/Tender/2023 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Madesh S/o. late Perumalegowda**, aged about 49 years, residing at Kodihalli Village, in Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District-562119, hereby state and submit that my name is **MADESH S/O. LATE PERUMALEGOWDA** and not **Mahadeva S/o. Kodihalli Perumalaiah**, vide affidavit dated 06.02.2023 sworn before Public Notary Kantharaju S. at Ramanagara

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayat, Chitradurga

Office of The District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Chitradurga

Phone No.: 08194-235464 e-mail: dhochitradurga@gmail.com

No.: DLO/e-Hospital /2022-23 Date: 03.02.2023

e- Procurement Tender Notification– Call-2

Short-Term e-Tender is being issued as per KTPP Act 1999 Rules 2000 for procurement through e-procurement Tender for total 86 sets of 86- computers, printers and other necessary equipment to be purchased for contacting through Tele-consultation the Beneficiaries in Tele-Medicine Programme Division of District Health and Family Welfare Office, Chitradurga. Further information can be obtained through official website. (Website: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in)

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/ 961/2022-23

Sd/- District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Chitradurga.

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
O & M Circle, Shakthi Soudha, Bondel, Mangalore - 575 015
Ph: 0824-2443549 | CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

Ref No.: SEE/MNG/AEE(C)/JE(C)/F-6/2022-23/9177-183 Date: 30.01.2023

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

MESCOM invites Civil Engineering Capital and Repair Works of Mangalore Circle (Mangalore Division-5, Kavoor Division-4, Puttur Division-2 and Bantwal Division-2) through e-procurement portal from registered PWD Contractors having EPF, ESI, GST and Labour registration. For details NIT and to participate in the Tenders through e-procurement directly you can access the tendering website **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from Date: 14.02.2023 at 11.00 hrs onwards further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (El.), O&M Circle, Mangaluru

For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

INNOVATE KARNATAKA | K-tech

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through GoK, e-Procurement Portal Only)

Tender No: KITS/EP/BTS/1/2021-EVPR-KITS

KITS, on behalf of the Department of E, IT, Bt & S&T, Govt. of Karnataka proposes for "Selection of Event curation and Management Agency for Organizing Flagship Events". KITS intends to engage a reputed firm selected through a transparent process, for organizing flagship events for showcasing opportunities and strengths of Electronics, IT, Bt & S&T and other knowledge based sector in the State.

Tender document containing background, eligibility criteria, selection process and other terms & conditions may be obtained from the website of e-procurement Department, Govt. of Karnataka **(https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)**. The last date for submission of tender in e-procurement portal is **13.03.2023 up to 5.00 pm**.

KITS reserves to right to reject any/all tenders received without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/-
Managing Director
KITS

KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT, BT and S&T, Government of Karnataka
BMTC Central Offices Building, TTMC 'B' Block, 4th Floor, Shanthinagar, KH Road, Bangalore-560027. India
Phone : 080-2223-1006 / 8, E-mail: mdkbits@gmail.com

DIPR/CP/4469/AKAR/22-23

KMF Karnataka Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited

KMF Complex, Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 Fax: 080-25536105

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/HAMUL-Mega Dairy/ETP-Works /2022-23 Date: 06.02.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (2nd Call)

[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tenders (2nd call) from the eligible contractors/ suppliers / manufacturers through E-procurement for the work mentioned in the table below. The interested and reputed contractors/ suppliers / manufacturers who have executed similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail: support@eprochelpdesk.com and helpline no. +91-8046010000, +91-8068948777,080-22230960, 080-222341155

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty	EMD (Rs) (GST Extra)	Period of Completion
1	Design, Construction, Supply, Erection, Testing, Commissioning of 20 LLPD capacity Effluent treatment Plant On TURNKEY Basis. for Mega Dairy at Hassan for Hassan Milk Union - Hassan, Karnataka.	1 Job	1555 Lakhs	10 Month

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated **09.02.2023 to 23.02.2023 up to 4-00 pm.**
2. Last date for Tender submission on date: **23.02.2023 up to 4.00 pm**
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: **27.02.2023 at 11.30 am.**

For KARNATAKA MILK FEDERATION LTD,
Sd/-
Director [Engineering-1]

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ,

ಸಿಂಧನೂರು–ಕುಷ್ಟಗಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಜನತಾ ಗಂಜ್ ಸಿಂಧನೂರು–584128
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ apmcsindhanur@gmail.com ದೂ: 08535–220071, 220256, ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್(08535220019)

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕೃಉಮಾಸ/ಸಿಂ/1246/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ:– 07–02–2023

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಸಿಂಧನೂರು ವತಿಯಿಂದ 2022–23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಗಳು 1999–2000ರನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ, ಬಂದರು ಮತ್ತು ಒಳನಾಡು ಜಲಸಾರಿಗೆ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ ಪ್ರಕೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ (http//eproc.karnataka.gov.in) ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಾತ್ಮಕ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು Standard Tender Document KW-3 & KW-4 ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

1) ವೇಳಪಟ್ಟಿ :– ದಿನಾಂಕ:– 08/02/2023 ರಂದು ಇ ಪ್ರಕೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:– 24/02/2023 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:– 27/02/2023 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:– 01/03/2023 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. **2) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ:** 1. ಸಿಂಧನೂರು ಸಮಿತಿಯ ವಿಸ್ತೃತ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಮುಚ್ಚು ಹರಾಜುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪಕ್ಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಳಿಗೆಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಮಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. ಟೆಂಡರಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ. (ಜಿಎಸ್‌ಟಿ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ) ರೂ. 95.92 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು. ಮುಂಗಡ ಠೇವಣಿ (ಇಎಂಡಿ) ರೂ. 1,91,846.00 ಗಳು. ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ 5 1/2 (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ). 2. ಸಿಂಧನೂರು ಸಮಿತಿಯ ತುರ್ವಿಹಾಳ ಉಪ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಡಳಿತ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಮುಂದೆರುವ ರಸ್ತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 39 ರಿಂದ 46ರ ಮುಂದೆ ಇರುವ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ಪೇವ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಆರ್.ಸಿ.ಸಿ ಚರಂಡಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. ಟೆಂಡರಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ. (ಜಿಎಸ್‌ಟಿ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ) ರೂ. 186.37 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು. ಮುಂಗಡ ಠೇವಣಿ (ಇಎಂಡಿ) ರೂ. 279561.00 ಗಳು. ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ 175 ದಿನಗಳು (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ). 3) ಸಿಂಧನೂರು ಸಮಿತಿಯ ತುರ್ವಿಹಾಳ ಉಪ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ 2 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ. (ಜಿಎಸ್‌ಟಿ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ) ರೂ. 84.07 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು. ಮುಂಗಡ ಠೇವಣಿ (ಇಎಂಡಿ) ರೂ. 168150 ಗಳು. ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ 5 1/2 (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ).

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಸಮಿತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯದಿಂದ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ–ಮೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ :080–22485867 ಅಥವಾ 080–25501216ನ್ನು ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಸಿಂಧನೂರು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸಿಂಧನೂರು.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ರಾಯಚೂರು/593/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.&ಎ/2022–23

BIFFes set to begin on March 23

Inauguration to be held on a grand scale at Vidhana Soudha with renowned actors from other languages as chief guests

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 14th edition of Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) will be organised in the city from March 23 to 30.

The venue will remain Orion Mall, Rajajinagar, like previous years, said Revenue Minister R. Ashok, who has been tasked with organising the festival this year. While the Assembly elections are expected to be announced by the last week of March or the first week of April, it will not affect the festival, government sources hoped.

R. Ashok, Revenue Minister and chairman of the organising committee of the 14th BIFFes, arriving to address a press conference in Bengaluru on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

"This year, the festival is special as Kannada cinema has truly reached the global stage. We are all proud of what Kannada cinema has achieved. The festival will aid the image of both Bengaluru and Kannada cinema," said Mr. Ashok, adding that he had appealed to the Chief Minister to increase the prize money for winners to increase the prestige of the festival. "The prize money hasn't been revised for over five years now," he said.

The inauguration will be held on a grand scale on the steps of the Vidhana Soudha with a renowned actor and actress from other languages as chief guests and the valedictory will be chaired by the Governor, Mr. Ashok said.

Meanwhile, like last year, BIFFes is being organised in a hurry and the curation team was put together just days ago. Last year it was put together in just over a month's time. Senior film society activist H.N. Narahari Rao, one of the founders of BIFFes, has been appointed the artistic director of the festival.

Pradeep Kumar Shetty Kenchanur, deputy artistic director, said they were planning to hold a retrospective of Senegalese filmmaker Ousmane Sembene to honour his centenary year and Manipuri filmmaker Aribam Shyam Sharma.

"We are also planning to screen films of Kannada indie filmmakers who are often not discussed as part of the parallel cinema movement," he said.

Man sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for life for stabbing student 5 years ago

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city civil and session court on Monday convicted a 30-year-old habitual offender and sentenced him to rigorous imprisonment for life till his last breath for stabbing a 22-year-old engineering student to death during a hot chase after a futile attempt at chain snatching on Kaggadasapura Main Road on June 10, 2017.

The judge K.M. Rajashekhar also slapped a fine of ₹2 lakh and directed the convict to pay a compensation of ₹15 lakh to the mother of the deceased.

The accused identified as Johnson, a resident of Vibhutipura and a bar bender, with multiple criminal cases pending against him, made a futile attempt to rob a chain from a woman and sped away on bike after she screamed. The victim Sai Charan, 21, a native of Andhra Pradesh, pursuing engineering at a private college in the city, was standing with his friends nearby. He heard the woman scream and started chasing Johnson on his bike for nearly a kilometre on an isolated road, before confronting him. In an attempt to flee, Johnson stabbed Sai Charan twice with a knife and sped away leaving him in a pool of blood on the road.

His friends, meanwhile, followed him and found him unconscious on the road and shifted him to hospital where he succumbed later. Based on the complaint, the then HAL police station Inspector Sadiq Pasha managed to identify the accused through a CCTV footage found in an ATM kiosk on the road and arrested Johnson. The accused tried to attack the police in a bid to escape but was shot in the leg by Sadiq Pasha. Though Johnson filed a complaint with the State Human Rights Commission accusing police for implicating him and firing at him, the case was dismissed a year later. Meanwhile, the police filed a charge-sheet against Johnson and submitted the evidence before the court. Since one of the witness turned hostile, Johnson managed to come out on bail. However, he was convicted at the end of the trial and has been sentenced for life.

HC quashes notice issued to public sector bank, saying it is 'illustration of abuse of power'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has described as an "illustration of abuse of the power" by the Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement (DCRE) in issuing a notice to a public sector bank in 2020 on a complaint filed by the bank's retired employee, belonging to the Scheduled Caste, alleging that he faced atrocity back in 2013 while working in the bank.

"It is for such abuse of every jurisdiction, available to the complainants like the retired employee, that genuine causes of genuine complaints of complainants suffer, albeit sometime," the court observed.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing a petition filed by Canara Bank and its general manager (Human Resources Wing) questioning the legality of the notice issued by the police inspector of the DCRE in December 2020, on the basis of the complaint lodged by Chandrakant Munavalli.

The complainant, who was serving in the post of manager in the bank, was dismissed from service in

2014 on the charge that he had indulged in corrupt practice. However, penalty was later modified to compulsory retirement. After multiple rounds of litigation before various authorities of the bank and the court, the penalty was reduced to a substantial reduction in pay scale in 2019. This was after he gave an undertaking that he would withdraw all the cases initiated by him against the bank and its officers.

However, after his retirement, the complainant lodged a complaint before the DCRE in December 2020 alleging atrocity in the bank back in 2013. Also, he initiated criminal proceedings in January 2021 against the bank and its senior executives under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

The High Court in July 2022 quashed the criminal proceedings initiated by him against the bank and its officers and said that initiation of action, as per the complainant, by the employer cannot be termed as 'atrocity' against an employee belonging to the SC community.

When the criminal case was quashed, the continuation of the proceeding before the DCRE would be putting a premium upon the litigative persistence of the complainant in gross abuse of such jurisdiction, the court said.

Death of tiger in Bandipur shrouded in mystery

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The death of a tiger whose carcass was found in a waterbody at Kebbepura village in Kundakere range of Bandipur on Tuesday, is shrouded in mystery.

Though post-mortem has not indicated any signs of external injury, the carcass had metallic wire strapped to its neck and abdomen and the wire was tethered to a boulder.

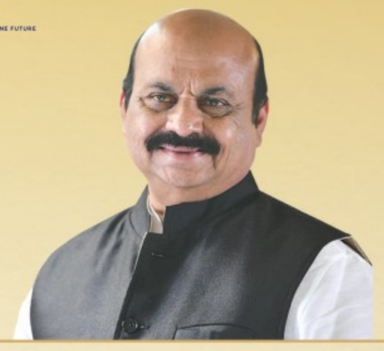
But a clinical examination of the carcass followed by post-mortem indicated no signs of any external injury caused by the metallic wire or the tiger being inflicted with injury trying to extricate itself from the wire. Besides, there are no signs of electrocution as well, said Ramesh Kumar, Director, Bandipur Tiger Reserve.

It is now suspected that the tiger - which was around 4 years old and a male - had died elsewhere and the miscreants must have dumped the carcass into the waterbody. It is now speculated that the tiger could have been poisoned. The viscera of the carcass has been sent to forensic laboratory in Mysuru and Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals in Bengaluru, said Mr. Ramesh Kumar.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Sri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

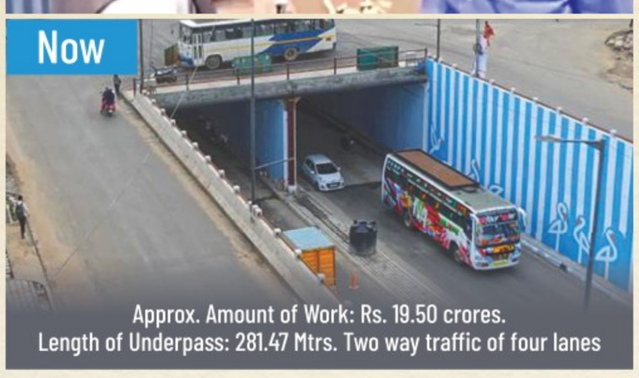
Hon'ble Chief Minister
SRI BASAVARAJ S. BOMMAI

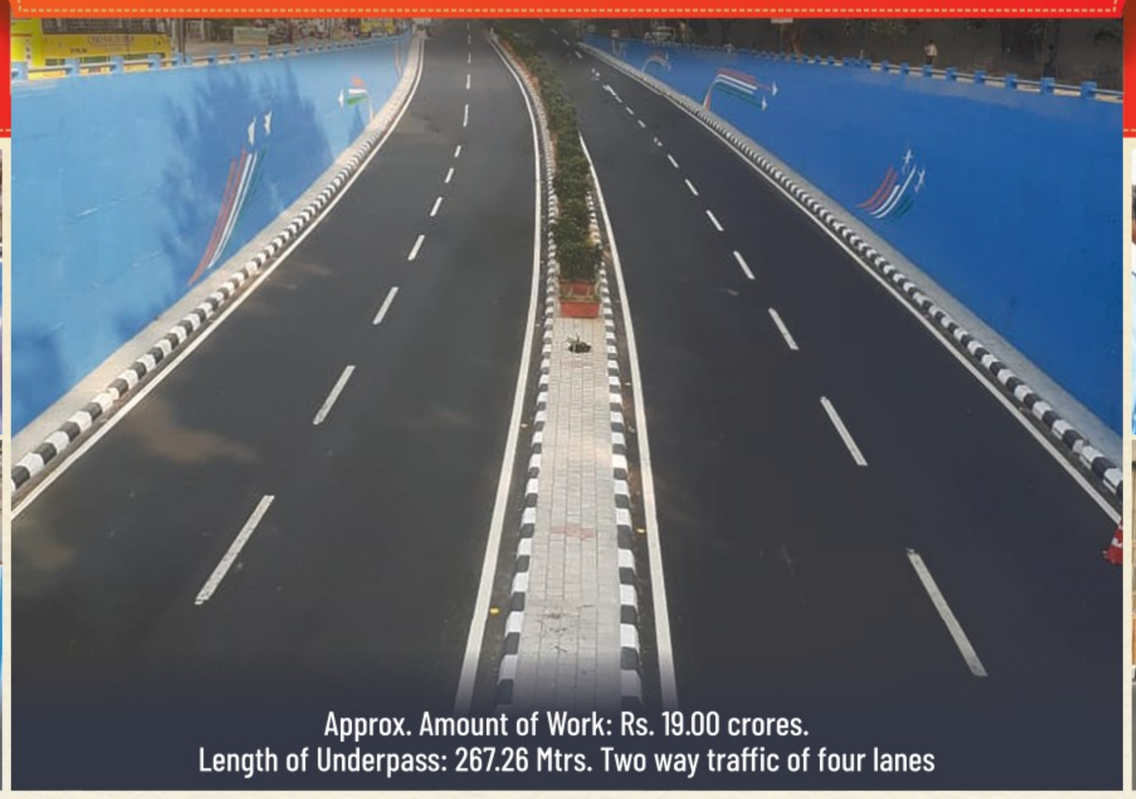

Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka

DEDICATION OF UNDERPASS
NEAR THE SURANJAN DAS JUNCTION
IN THE LIMITS OF K.R. PURAM ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

INSPECTION OF UNDERPASS NEAR THE KUNDALAHALLI JUNCTION
in the limits of Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency

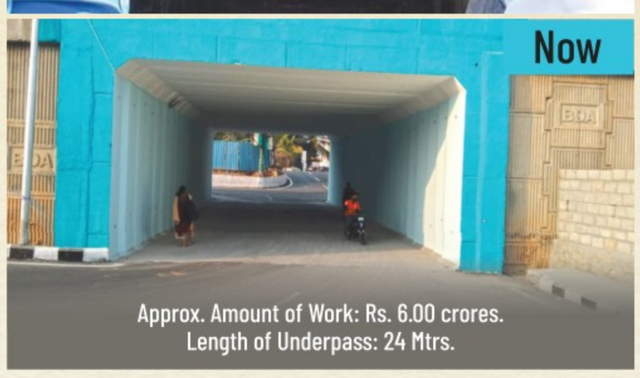
Then


Now
Approx. Amount of Work: Rs. 19.50 crores.
Length of Underpass: 281.47 Mtrs. Two way traffic of four lanes


Approx. Amount of Work: Rs. 19.00 crores.
Length of Underpass: 267.26 Mtrs. Two way traffic of four lanes

INSPECTION OF UNDERPASS NEAR THE MARATHAHALLI JUNCTION
in the limits of Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency

Then


Now
Approx. Amount of Work: Rs. 6.00 crores.
Length of Underpass: 24 Mtrs.

Date: 09.02.2023, Thursday at 11.30 AM | Venue: Suranjan Das Junction, H.A.L. Airport Ward, K.R. Puram, Bengaluru

in August presence
Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman
Hon'ble Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs

Sri M. Rajeev Chandrashekar
Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Electronics & Information Technology

Presided by
Sri B.A. Basavaraj
Hon'ble Minister for Urban Development and MLA, K.R.Puram Assembly Constituency

in August presence
Sri D.V. Sadananda Gowda
Hon'ble Membmer of Parliament, North Loka Sabha Constituency

Chief Guests

Sri R. Ashoka, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue
Sri V. Somanna, Hon'ble Minister for Housing & Infrastructure Development
Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, IT-BT, Science & Technology, Skill Development
Sri S.T. Somashekar, Hon'ble Minister for Co-operation
Sri K. Gopalaiah, Hon'ble Minister for Excise
Sri N. Nagaraju (M.T.B.), Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Small Scale Industries
Sri N. Munirathna, Hon'ble Minister for Horticulture & Planning, Programme, Monitoring & Statistics
Sri M. Satish Reddy, Hon'ble Chief Whip of Ruling Party in Legislative Assembly & MLA, Bommanahalli Constituency
Sri B.K. Hariprasad, Hon'ble Leader of Opposition Party in Legislative Council & MLC
Dr. Y.A. Narayana Swamy, Hon'ble Chief Whip of Ruling Party, Legislative Council & MLC
Sri S.R. Vishwanath, Hon'ble Chairman, Bangalore Development Authority & MLA, Yelahanka Constituency
Sri M. Krishnappa, Hon'ble Chairman, Okkaliga Development Corporation & MLA, Bengaluru South Constituency
Sri P.C. Mohan, Hon'ble MP Bengaluru Central
Sri Jairam Ramesh, Hon'ble MP (Rajya Sabha)
Sri Jaggesh, Hon'ble MP (Rajya Sabha)
Sri Lehar Singh Siroya, Hon'ble MP (Rajya Sabha)
Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah, Hon'ble MP (Rajya Sabha)
Sri G.C. Chandrashekar, Hon'ble MP (Rajya Sabha)
Sri Narayana Koragappa, Hon'ble MP , (Rajya Sabha)
Sri Aravinda Limbavali, Hon'ble MLA, Mahadevpura Assembly Constituency
Sri Puttanna, Hon'ble MLC , Teacher's Constituency (Bengaluru City)
Sri T.A. Sharavana, Hon'ble MLC
Sri A. Devegowda, Hon'ble MLC, Graduates Constituency (Bengaluru City)
Sri Muniraju Gowda P.M. (Tulasi), Hon'ble MLC
Sri H.S. Gopinath Reddy, Hon'ble MLC
Sri M. Nagaraju, Hon'ble MLC
Sri S. Keshava Prasad, Hon'ble MLC

Hearty Welcome to all Hon'ble Members of Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha, Hon'ble MLAs & MLCs of the City and General Public

As is enshrined in our Constitution, **to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture** is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country

Rakesh Singh, IAS, Administrator, BBMP
Tushar Giri Nath, IAS, Chief Commissioner, BBMP
Dr. Thrilok Chandra, IAS, Zonal Commissioner, Mahadevapura Zone, BBMP

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002

A BG-BGE

INBRIEF

CM thanks Gadkari for funds sanctioned for highway work

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has thanked the Centre for sanctioning ₹196.05 crore for widening the two-lane Kanamadi-Bijjaragi-Tikota national highway on the Maharashtra-Karnataka border.

On Wednesday, Mr. Bommai tweeted, citing a tweet by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari where he announced the sanction, "Thanks to Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari under the aegis of PM Narendra Modi for developing world-class infrastructure."

Contract health workers launch hunger strike

The strike by contractual health staff, appointed under the National Health Mission (NHM) in the State, has partially affected services in government healthcare facilities in the districts since Tuesday. The protesters launched a hunger strike on Wednesday.

Some of the protesting staff along with their honorary president Ayanur Manjunath met Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai in Shivamogga and submitted a memorandum. The Chief Minister has promised to meet them to discuss the demands on Thursday.

ED notice to D.K. Shivakumar; his daughter gets notice from CBI

KPCC president alleges that Enforcement Directorate and Central Bureau of Investigation are deliberately directed at Opposition leaders repeatedly

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A couple of months ahead of elections to the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has yet again issued a notice to Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D.K. Shivakumar, asking him to appear before it on February 22. His daughter has been served notice by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Mr. Shivakumar, who is currently undertaking the Praja Dhwani Yatre in Shivamogga, as part of the party's preparations for the elections due in May, alleged that the ED and the CBI were directed only at Opposition leaders and not at those from the ruling party despite several allegations.

Earlier summons

He had earlier appeared before the ED in Delhi for questioning in the *National Herald* money laundering case. He and his brother D. K. Suresh, MP, had been summoned on October 7, 2022 during the Karnataka

D.K. Shivakumar

leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, on the day Congress leader Rahul Gandhi visited Adichunchanagiri Mutt in Mandya.

Speaking to reporters on the latest summons, Mr. Shivakumar said on Wednesday, "Notices are coming every day. Yesterday, my daughter got one; it came to our college regarding fees. The CBI has issued the notice. I have appeared before the ED and answered them. Now again they are asking me to appear on February 22. Should I go ahead with the Praja Dhwani Yatre or appear before the ED? The ED and the CBI seem to be only against Opposition parties and not the ruling party leaders, though they have amassed thousands of crores," the Congress leader alleged.

Since 2019

The Kanakapura MLA first got into the ED crosshairs when he was arrested by the agency on September 3, 2019, following multiple rounds of questioning in a case that emerged from an Income Tax Department action against him. The Delhi High Court granted him bail in October that year.

CBI officials had earlier conducted searches on the educational institutions run by Mr. Shivakumar in connection with a case of disproportionate assets which is under investigation. Mr. Shivakumar is the chairman of the National Education Foundation and his daughter D.K.S. Aisshwarya is a management member.

The former KPCC president Dinesh Gundu Rao termed the ED notice to Mr. Shivakumar a "political conspiracy" on the eve of polls. Meanwhile, Revenue Minister R. Ashok said, "The CBI is an autonomous body. There were raids that happened when the Congress was in power."

Vijayendra given task of organising conventions of morchas across Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

B.Y. Vijayendra

This could help fully utilise the services of his father and senior leader Yediyurappa, say BJP insiders

B.Y. Vijayendra, BJP State vice-president and son of the former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, who has maintained a low profile for some time now, has been given the responsibility of heading the committee that organises conventions of various morchas in all the 224 Assembly constituencies ahead of the elections.

This is the first time that Mr. Vijayendra has been given a State-level responsibility related to elections, though he was in charge of preparations for byelections in a few constituencies earlier.

BSY's role

This is being seen as the recognition of the organising skills of the young leader by the party. His further growth in the party would depend on the outcome of these conventions, it is being said. Some leaders argue that giving such a responsibility to Mr. Vijayendra would help in fully utilising the services of Mr. Yediyurappa.

Mr. Vijayendra told media persons in Bengaluru on Wednesday that he would effectively organise conventions of various morchas to ensure the party's victory in the Assembly elections. He said he would finalise the tour schedule within a week.

The party has constituted various committees to organise different events as per its poll preparation calendar that was finalised at the State executive held in Bengaluru on last Saturday.

Other responsibilities

Health Minister K. Sudhakar has been appointed convener of the committee that would take up a campaign to get suggestions for the party manifesto.

Public Works Minister C.C. Patil has been appointed Pramukh (in-charge leader) for yatras to be taken out by four teams of leaders while party State general secretary N. Ravikumar and women's morcha State president Geeta Vivekananda has been appointed co-pramukhs (co-in-charge leaders). Separate committees have been appointed for each of the four yatras.

Minister Halappa Basappa Achar has been appointed convener of the committee that would look into organising conventions of beneficiaries of various Central and State government schemes while Cooperation Minister S.T. Somashekhar and MLA P. Rajiv have been appointed co-conveners.

The former national executive committee member of all the morchas S.V. Raghavendra has been appointed convener for the poll campaign to be taken up through video vans.

State to send proposal to name Shivamogga airport after BSY

The Hindu Bureau
HASSAN

The State government will send a proposal to the Centre to name the airport in Shivamogga after the former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has said. At a programme in Shivamogga on Wednesday, Mr. Bommai said the airport work could be completed in record time in Shivamogga because of Mr. Yediyurappa. Giving him credit for numerous developmental projects in the city, he said, "Earlier, Mr. Yediyurappa had opposed naming the airport after him. The State Cabinet has taken a decision to propose his name. However, I hope he will accept it as a token of people's love for him."

"Both Mr. Yediyurappa and K.S. Eshwarappa have worked for the development of Shivamogga district," he said. Both the leaders have been unhappy over being "sidelined" by the party State unit.

Bommai's assurance to VISP employees

The Hindu Bureau
HASSAN

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has assured a delegation of Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant (VISP) employees that his government will make efforts to stop the closure of the plant in Bhadravati.

Earlier in the day, KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar met VISP employees in Bhadravati and assured them that the Congress would come to power after the elections and would ensure the plant functioned.

A delegation of workers met Mr. Bommai in Shivamogga on Wednesday. The Chief Minister told them that several public sector units had been closed over the years due to globalisation. The VISP survived all these years due to the efforts of the former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, he said. "The Centre had initiated the closure process under the disinvestment scheme. The iron ore of Karnataka is in demand. Efforts will be made to revive the plant," he said.

He assured the workers that he would first stop the closure process and then hold talks with other steel manufacturers on reviving the plant.

J. Jagadish, president of the VISP Employees' Association, told *The Hindu*, "The Chief Minister responded to our plea and said that the closure process was the result of economic policies introduced in the 1990s. He said he would make efforts to avoid the closure of the plant and make it functional. He also promised to discuss whether it could be merged with the KIOCL," he said.

State team meets Foxconn chief in New Taipei

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Foxconn chairman Young Liu met a visiting delegation representing the Government of Karnataka in New Taipei City on Wednesday to further discuss its plans to set up a semiconductor chip manufacturing unit in Karnataka.

The Taiwanese Hon Hai Technology Group-owned Foxconn, which manufactures of electronics components, PCBs, integrated circuits, and semiconductor chips, has been in talks with the State since May last year to explore investments. Foxconn's potential investment in Karnataka would be a testament to the State's industrial landscape, said Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

Delegation head Gunjan Krishna, Commissioner for Industrial Development and Director, Department of Industries and Commerce, said, "We would like to extend our full support to Foxconn."

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Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
222313 006622	Procurement of Dual Drive Centrifugal Decanter for ETP Biological Sludge TNPL will follow Two Bid system and E-Tender cum Auction	24.02.2023
222313 006779	Transportation of Bagasse / Fuel (Coal / Raw Lignite) from / to M/s. Sakthi Sugars Ltd., Modakurichi	23.02.2023
222333 000535	Transportation of Flue dust and Slag from M/s. JSW, Salem to TNPL Cement Plant at Kagithapuram	20.02.2023

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL & NIC Website only.

E-mail: 222313006622 - purchase.engg@tnpl.co.in
222313006779 & 222333000535 - purchase.trans@tnpl.co.in

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the properties from the respective owners more fully mentioned and described in the Schedule hereunder. The Owners represent that they are the absolute owners of their respective properties, and that they have a good marketable, right, title and interest therein and apart from them, there are no other person/s having any right or claim over the Schedule Properties. The Owners further represent that except the Agreement of Sale entered into by the respective owners with Sri. Gopalakrishna. C. B, son of Sri. C.P. Bopaiah for sale of properties bearing Survey No. 225 measuring 04 guntas and Survey No. 225 measuring 36 guntas and with Sri. Sri. Satyanarayana Pentu, son of Sri. P. Ramulu for sale of properties bearing Survey No. 225 measuring 32 ½ guntas, Survey No. 226 measuring 1 acre 01 gunta and Survey No. 227 measuring 39 guntas of Lakshmipura Village they have not entered into any Agreements/Memorandum of Understanding etc., nor have mortgaged, created any, right, interest, lien or encumbered the Schedule Property or portion in the above survey numbers in any manner with any person/s. Any person/s having objection/s or claims, shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection/s or claims within **Fifteen (15) days** from the date of this Notice with the Undersigned, failing which, my client shall proceed with the above-mentioned transaction.

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All that piece and parcel of the agricultural, situated at Lakshmipura Village, Kootagala Hobli, Ramnagara Taluk / District, mentioned here below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Owner/s	Sy No	Extent Acre	Extent Guntas	East by	West by	North by	South by
LAKSHMIPURA VILLAGE								
1	Sri. L.C. Nagaraju, Sri. L. C. Narayana, Sri. L.C. Suresh, Smt. Bhagyamma and Smt. Gayathri	219	04	17	Hagalahalli Village Border	Sy.No. 220	Sy. No 218	Sy. No 227
2	Sri. Bairappa	220	04	29	Sy.No. 219	Sy.No.221	Sy. No.217	Sy. No. 226
3	Sri. Muthaiah	221	04	19	Sy. No. 220	Sy. Nos 222 & 215	Sy. Nos. 215 & 216	Sy. No. 225
4	Sri. Sri. Chikkanna @ Sannappa, Smt. Puttalingamma, Sri. K.L. Siddalingaiah, Sri. C. Shivalingaiah, Sri. Siddaiah @ Koorlappa, Smt. Kempamma and Sri. Gangadhara	225	04	05	Sy. No. 226	Sy. No. 224	Sy. No. 221	Sy. No. 229
5	Sri. Sri. Chikkanna @ Sannappa, Smt. Puttalingamma, Sri. K.L. Siddalingaiah, Sri. C. Shivalingaiah and Sri. Siddaiah @ Koorlappa	226	05	34	Sy. No. 227	Sy. No. 225	Sy. No. 220	Sy. No 228.
6	Sri. Sri. Chikkanna @ Sannappa, Smt. Puttalingamma, Sri. K.L. Siddalingaiah, Sri. C. Shivalingaiah and Sri. Siddaiah @Koorlappa	227	05	19	Hagalahalli Village Border	Sy. No. 226	Sy. No. 219	Sy. No. 103

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DIPR/852/Tender/2023

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்".

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಆಯೋಗ
4ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಕೃಷಿ ಭವನ, ನೃಪತುಂಗ ರಸ್ತೆ, ರಾಣಿ ಚೆನ್ನಮ್ಮ ವೃತ್ತ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560 001.

ಸಂ: ಕರಾಮಹರಆ/ಬೆಂ/ಹೊ.ಗು/ಇ.ಪ್ರ/ಟೆಂಡರ್.ಪ್ರಕ/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.02.2023

ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಆಯೋಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಹೊರ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯಿಂದ 2022–23 ಮತ್ತು 2023–24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಆಯೋಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಶೀಘ್ರಲಿಪಿಗಾರರು–1, ವಾಹನಚಾಲಕ–2, ಡಿ.ಗ್ರೂಪ್–2 ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳು ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುತ್ತವೆ ಇದರ ಎದುರಾಗಿ ಡಾಟಾ ಎಂಟ್ರಿ ಆಪರೇಟರ್(ಡಿಟಿಓ)–1, ವಾಹನಚಾಲಕರು–1, ಡಿ.ಗ್ರೂಪ್–2 ಪಡೆಯುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ ಕೆಟಿಪಿಪಿ 1999 ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.02.2023 ರಿಂದ 2022–23 ಹಾಗೂ 2023–24 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಅನುಭವಗಳು ಇರತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ತಪ್ಪದೇ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

3) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜುಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **08.02.2023 ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.02.2023 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5:00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ** ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.

4) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **27.02.2023 ಸಂಜೆ 5:00 ಗಂಟೆ.**

5) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿದ್ದು **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ **ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ಆಯೋಗ, 4ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಕೃಷಿ ಭವನ, ನೃಪತುಂಗ ರಸ್ತೆ, ರಾಣಿ ಚೆನ್ನಮ್ಮ ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560001.** ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ,
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಆಯೋಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಜ/ವಾಪ್ರ/4579/ಎಎಎ/2022–23

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

॥ OM SHANTHI ॥

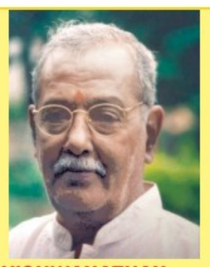
17.01.1949 — 01.02.2023

Girija Bhamini Rangaswamy
(ex. Central Bank of India)

... no stone left unturned to have our attachment intact while you were blessed with Thiruvadi of the Almighty on Uttarayana Bhishma Ekadashi.
... Bhamu ... we all love you ... always ...

K.C. Rangaswamy (ex. The Hindu)
K.C.R. Anand, Neethi Anand, Rhea Anand,
host of friends, relatives and wellwishers
Mob: 6381085371 (WA), 9849525596, 9849779471 (WA)
Email: kcra73@yahoo.com

DEATH



T VISHWANATHAN 83 yrs
Professor Government College of Fine Arts
Expired on: 08-02-2023,
Final rites on: 09-02-2023
between 11 to 12 noon
Mourned by
Family members & well Wishers
Mb: 9980707312 / 9731076826

Smt.USHA RAJAGOPALAN
08-03-1958 — 07-02-2023
PGT (Hindi) (Retd.),
Kendriya Vidyalaya,
Ashok Nagar, Chennai, etc.
attained Sivaloka Prapthi
"She Taught Values Beyond Textbooks"
Deeply mourned by:
Lt.Cdr.S.Rajagopalan(Husband)
R.M.Chandrasekhar (Son)
Arun Venkatesan (Son)
Sathiya & Lavanya
(Daughters- in-law)
Vidhyasree, Pranav & Advaith
(Grand Children)
9962926578/9538646688

DEATH

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

M SUBRAMANI CSTE (Rtd.)
Southern Railways
Passed away peacefully
on 7 Feb 2023 in Chennai.

His final journey will begin at W355 North Main Road, Annanagar West Extn. Chennai 600101. at 10 am on Thursday, 9 February 2023.
Cremation: Velangadu Burial Grounds, New Avadi Road. (near RTO)

Anand Subramani
Arun Subramani
Contact: 9884612650

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

EIGHTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

Dr. Kamala Anandaram
10-05-1943 — 09-02-2005
Professor of Forensic Medicine (Retd)
Madras Medical College &
Thanjavur Medical College.

ETERNAL SUPPORT

Oh! our eternal support!
You are our mentor!
Guiding our ideas, words, deeds,
To receive bountiful rewards!!!
Many a test came our way;
Smiling you showed the right way!!
We enjoy blissful lives,
Guided by your charming smiles!!!

O.ANANDARAM,IRS(Rtd.),
Annapoorna (Daughter)
Mukund (Son in law),
Maanas & Yojan (Grandsons)
 # 044-26211916
Cell No: 9444061916

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

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INBRIEF

Drone survey to find rogue tusker begins

A team from the Forest Department and a special team from Wayanad have begun a field survey to take steps to prevent human-elephant conflicts at Chinnakkanal in Idukki. On Wednesday, the teams jointly conducted a drone survey with Arun R.S., Chief Conservator of Forests, High Range Circle, to find the camping location of the rogue tusker 'Arikompan' which has triggered panic at Chinnakkanal and Santhanpara grama panchayats near Munnar. "If needed, it will be tranquilized," Mr. Arun said.

Telangana HC rejects State govt.'s plea in poaching case

The Telangana High Court on Wednesday turned down the request of the State government to hear an Interim Application (IA) seeking to suspend the single judge verdict to hand over the investigation of BRS MLAs poaching attempt case to the CBI. Advocate General B.S. Prasad requested the Bench of Chief Justice Ujjal Bhuyan and Justice N. Tukaramji to permit Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy to hear the IA. The Bench declined to pass any direction on the matter.

'No rollback of cess, tax announced in Kerala Budget'

Kerala Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal made it clear on Wednesday that the tax proposals and the social security cess on fuel and liquor announced in the 2023-24 State Budget will remain. In his reply to the general discussion on the Budget in the Assembly, Mr. Balagopal defended the proposals and denied that the tax hikes were unnecessarily steep. Terming the proposals unfair and unreasonable, the Opposition UDF stormed out of the House.

As on date, Amaravati is the capital of A.P., MHA tells RS

Minister Nityanand Rai says the Andhra Pradesh government has not consulted the Centre while enacting the relevant Acts; refuses to comment on the proposed three capitals as it is *sub-judice*

The Hindu Bureau
GUNTUR

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has made it clear that as on date, Amaravati is the capital of Andhra Pradesh. It has refused to comment on the State government's proposal to set up three capitals, maintaining that it is *sub-judice*.

It further said that the State government had not consulted the Centre while enacting the three-capital Acts.

The Union government's statement comes as a huge surprise even as political and legal debate continues on the State government's decision to go ahead with its proposal and Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's resoluteness to shift the capital from Amaravati to Visakhapatnam, now being touted as Executive Capital.

> Andhra Pradesh government has enacted the A.P. Capital Region Development Authority (Repeal) Act, 2020, and the Andhra Pradesh Decentralization and Inclusive Development of All Regions Act, 2020, without consulting the Centre
>
> **NITYANAND RAI**
> Union Minister of State for Home Affairs

In a written reply to an unstarred question posed by YSRCP member V. Vijaya Sai Reddy in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said that as per the A.P. Reorganisation Act, 2014, the capital had been notified by the State government in 2015.

"Subsequently, the Andhra Pradesh government had enacted the A.P. Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) (Repeal) Act, 2020, and the Andhra Pradesh Decentralization and Inclusive Development of All Regions (APDIDAR) Act, 2020, which provided that there shall be three Seats of Governance in the State of Andhra Pradesh. While enacting these Acts, the State had not consulted the Centre," he said.

'Upper Bhadra project sounds a death knell for Rayalaseema'

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUPATI

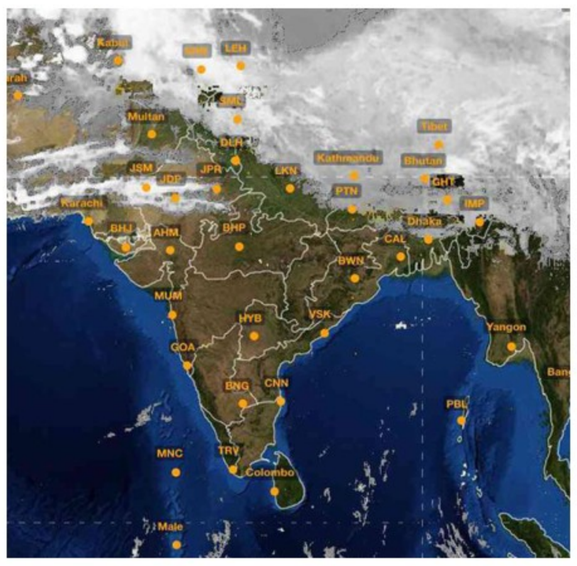
The national status accorded to the Upper Bhadra project in Karnataka by the Central government and the substantial budgetary allocation for the project in the Union Budget will sound the death knell for Rayalaseema region in Andhra Pradesh, intellectuals and the academic fraternity here have said.

"According national status of a project with no legal sanctity is against the federal spirit of the Constitution. The BJP-led Central government has done irreparable damage to the Rayalaseema region downstream," Rayalaseema Intellectual Forum coordinator M. Purushotham Reddy told the media here. "The lift irrigation project was designed in 2008 to store 42 tmc ft of water, to which the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT-1) declined allocation under the Bachawat Award. However, the KWDT-2 allocated 9 tmc ft of water in 2010, which again was struck down by the Supreme Court in favour of Andhra Pradesh," Mr. Reddy explained. The forum flayed the Centre for allocating ₹5,300 crore by recognising the Upper Bhadra as a national project, based on the recommendations made by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti to allocate ₹16,125 crore to the project.

Rayalaseema Intellectual Forum coordinator M. Purushotham Reddy addressing the media in Tirupati.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy rainfall/snowfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan, Muzaffarabad, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.9	18.2	Kozhikode	—	34.3	24.4
Ahmedabad	—	33.0	13.8	Kurnool	—	35.5	20.8
Aizawl	—	24.0	10.7	Lucknow	—	25.0	12.0
Allahabad	—	27.2	13.0	Madurai	—	34.0	21.1
Bengaluru	—	31.1	18.1	Mangaluru	—	33.5	22.4
Bhopal	—	—	11.0	Mumbai	—	33.6	18.8
Bhubaneswar	—	35.4	17.2	Mysuru	—	32.8	14.0
Chandigarh	—	25.6	9.5	New Delhi	—	24.5	9.7
Chennai	—	32.1	21.0	Patna	—	28.0	14.2
Coimbatore	—	33.4	20.6	Port Blair	—	31.6	24.8
Dehradun	—	25.6	9.0	Puducherry	—	31.6	19.8
Gangtok	6	11.8	7.3	Pune	—	33.3	15.5
Goa	—	31.6	20.4	Raipur	—	32.2	17.0
Guwahati	—	24.4	13.1	Ranchi	—	28.0	15.5
Hubballi	—	35.0	19.0	Shillong	—	17.6	7.5
Hyderabad	—	33.9	20.1	Shimla	—	15.7	4.3
Imphal	0.4	24.0	8.1	Srinagar	—	10.7	-0.1
Jaipur	—	27.2	11.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	31.8	22.2
Kochi	—	31.2	23.0	Tiruchi	—	32.3	21.4
Kohima	—	17.4	7.0	Vijayawada	—	32.2	20.9
Kolkata	—	30.5	20.5	Visakhapatnam	—	30.6	22.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	6	14	16	171	149	
Bengaluru	15	11	22	155	129	
Chennai	22	36	49	134	100	
Delhi	14	90	72	156	302	
Hyderabad	6	47	42	154	150	
Kolkata	35	34	36	87	94	
Lucknow	12	19	82	140	134	
Mumbai	56	260	83	392	233	
Pune	—	23	47	334	205	
Visakhapatnam	7	38	44	107	132	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Begusarai, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 415 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Nandesari, Gujarat recorded a healthy AQI score of 19

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

7, including minor girl, held in sexual assault case

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Police have arrested seven persons, including one juvenile girl in conflict with law, in connection with the alleged gang rape of a minor girl.

On February 4, the victim was allegedly insisted by the girl to accompany her to a birthday party. The six accused, who were present there, allegedly made the victim consume a soft drink laced with alcohol after which she fell unconscious. When she gained consciousness, she noticed that she had been sexually assaulted.

The six accused were arrested and the girl was sent to observation home.

Fog rider

Pulling along: A rickshaw puller passes through a road which is engulfed by fog near Guntur in Andhra Pradesh in the early hours of Wednesday. K.V.S. GIRI

Miraculous escape for pilot as aircraft veers off runway

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A 34-year-old trainee pilot flying a Cessna-172 R aircraft had a miraculous escape after the aircraft veered off the runway during take-off at the Thiruvananthapuram International Airport here on Wednesday.

The aircraft suffered serious damage when it dropped from around a height of 5 ft and veered off the runway, ploughing through the adjacent open ground.

According to the eyewitness, the aircraft almost overturned, damaging its landing and nose-wheel, the nose and belly portions.

The trainee pilot, identified as Anoop M. Nair, was rushed to a nearby hospital where his condition is said to be stable.

The incident occurred at 11.36 a.m. when the Cessna aircraft of Rajiv Gandhi Academy for Aviation Technology that Mr. Nair was flying solo swerved off the runway during a routine training sortie. Within minutes, the crash tenders and emergency services at the airport cordoned off the area, and took steps to prevent the aircraft from catching fire.

Topsy-turvy: The Cessna-172 R aircraft that veered off the runway during take-off at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport.

ASI's Keeladi report pushes Sangam age further back to 800 BCE

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Keeladi continues to redefine Tamil history. In the latest development, the Sangam age has been pushed to 800 BCE based on the archaeological findings from the first two phases of excavation carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in this sleepy hamlet along the Vaigai river, about 13 km from Madurai.

K. Amarnath Ramakrishna, who led the first two seasons of excavations between 2014 and 2016, submitted his 982-page report to ASI Director General V. Vidyavathi recently. The report has 12 chapters explaining the historical background and objectives of the excavation.

Based on the stratigraphy of the cultural deposits found in the first two phases, the period of the Sangam era archaeological site has been placed between 8th century BCE to 3rd century CE.

Sangam age was believed to be between 300 BCE to 300 CE. The new report repositions the Sangam age between 800 BCE and 300 CE, sources said. Even this period of history has been classified into three periods. The pre-early historic period between 800 BCE to 500 BCE, mature early history between 500 BCE to the end of 1st century BCE and post-early history from 1st century BCE to 300 CE, sources said.

According to the report, the fertile nature of the area and cattle rearing played a crucial role in its evolution, paving the way for excess production of rice and sea trading of the inhabitants.

About 5,800 artefacts were unearthed at Keeladi during the first two phases of excavation.

K. Amarnath Ramakrishna, who led the first two seasons of excavations between 2014 and 2016, submitted his 982-page report to ASI Director General recently. FILE PHOTO

Archaeology Department set to launch comprehensive survey in Attappady

Abdul Latheef Naha
PALAKKAD

The State Archaeology Department is set to launch an extensive archaeological survey in Attappady, a vast stretch of tribal land presumed to have had a mature, ancient civilization.

Several stone tools, inhabited caves, menhirs, cists or burial chambers, stone circles, burial urns, black and red ware pottery, terracotta images, stone carvings, and granite inscriptions were discovered from different places in Attappady during separate explorations.

However, no comprehensive study has been done in Attappady to ascertain the archaeological significance of the region. State Archaeology Department Director E. Dinesan told *The Hindu* that the month-long comprehensive survey would document the archaeological importance of Attappady.

All archaeological sites, remains, and relics will be marked and documented during the survey. "We are not going to collect any materials. This will be a basic data collection to document the region," Mr. Dinesan said.

Athira R. Pillai, a curator with the Archaeology Department, will lead a 22-member survey team. The team will be split into three or four groups and will start exploring the region from February 17.

Apart from officials from the Archaeology Department, researchers in anthropology, history, and social science will be part of the survey team.

"We expect the survey to be completed in one month. But considering the topography of the region, the survey may take more days," said Mr. Dinesan.

Past forward: An archaeologist making an estampage of a stone inscription found in Attappady in April 2022. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bench and bigotry

A judge's appointment exposes the opaque collegium system

The questionable elevation of advocate L. Victoria Gowri as a judge of the Madras High Court epitomises the problematic nature of the system of judicial appointment. It also portends a government-driven project to take over the Bench through its favourites. Ms. Gowri, whose unabashed prejudice against minorities became evident when her past speeches and interviews came to light after her name was approved by the Supreme Court, was sworn in at an oath-taking ceremony organised with great dispatch. Earlier, the Union Law Ministry had processed the recommendation concerning a set of candidates with extraordinary speed not displayed in other cases. It was clear that the government wanted to act ahead of any possible interim order from the Court, which had agreed to hear petitions from a group of lawyers against her appointment. In the process, the government ignored a specific recommendation that R. John Sathyan, an advocate whose candidature was earlier opposed by the Ministry, be appointed first. It is a clear message that the present regime would pick and choose among those approved by the collegium, in a manner informed by its political preferences. That the government repeatedly has its way indicates that the conflict over the appointment process has reached a stage in which the collegium is constantly under pressure to yield to the executive's position on individuals if any meaningful progress is to be made on the perennial process of filling up vacancies.

The challenge to Ms. Gowri's appointment was on the ground that had there been effective consultation and relevant information placed before the collegium, her appointment may not have materialised. Further, by her speeches denouncing Christians and Muslims she had rendered herself ineligible to act without fear or favour; and that she could not be expected to dispense justice without discrimination "on the ground of religion...". However, the Bench rightly rejected the petitions, observing that it cannot revisit the suitability of any appointee after the collegium had decided on it. The Court on the judicial side could not possibly have gone into a choice made by its top three judges. Indeed, it made no sense to refer the collegium's decision to a Bench for review. It is apparent that the State government too had not flagged her extreme views. While political affiliation should not disqualify anyone from judicial office, open bigotry ought to. It is also a signal failure of the collegium process that a controversial proposal could get past its scrutiny. What is needed is more than reform in the appointment system: perhaps, a process that combines an objective evaluation of the candidates' credentials with an independent mechanism that ensures public scrutiny of their suitability. What is in place at present is an opaque, closed-door consensus-building that could leave room for unhealthy compromises.

Old rivalry, new goal

A lot more than the Border-Gavaskar Trophy is at stake for Australia, India

A Test rivalry high on epic contests and stirring comebacks gets its latest edition as India and Australia face off in the first Test at Nagpur from Thursday. The Ashes and games involving India and Pakistan have their share of history and hype and within that ecosystem, India and Australia have fashioned a unique fabric that has shimmered bright ever since V.V.S. Laxman, Rahul Dravid and Harbhajan Singh dished out magic at Kolkata's Eden Gardens in 2001. There should be riveting fare during this four-Test series for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, a silverware upon which India has had a better hold especially during the last decade, be it at home or away. The usual surround-sound may have been muted and only now have whispers started about spin-friendly pitches. While that surface tension lingers, Usman Khawaja's delayed departure to India over a visa issue does not reflect well on bureaucratic red tape that perhaps got triggered since the Australian's roots are in Pakistan. Pat Cummins and his men have trained away from the flashbulbs, preferring to be holed up at the Alur ground on the outskirts of Bengaluru. On abrasive pitches against their own spinners and local talent, Steve Smith and company have finessed their skill sets against the slow art.

As the Test caravan moves across Nagpur, Delhi, Dharamshala and Ahmedabad, a lot more is at stake in this bilateral skirmish. The ICC Test Championship is heading towards its business end with the final scheduled at London's Oval from June 7 to 11. June may seem far, but, for the Test cycle, there is not much time left as April and May are linked to the Indian Premier League T20 tournament. Australia with 75.56 percentage points leads the table ahead of India (58.93), Sri Lanka (53.33) and South Africa (48.72). With one foot in the final, Australia will sail through even with one draw and three losses against India. However, a 0-4 drubbing from India in tandem with Sri Lanka defeating New Zealand twice, would mean that Cummins and gang will miss the final. Meanwhile, Rohit Sharma's men can keep their championship hopes alive by winning the series 4-0 or 3-1. However, a 2-2 draw against Australia along with Sri Lanka winning 2-0 in New Zealand would mean that India will fall below the top two and miss the summit clash. The Indian squad holds the edge but Australia is keen to rewrite history. And the cherry on the cake would be a berth in the Test championship final.

The lesson from a court appointment drama

Gautam Bhatia

is a Delhi-based lawyer

The recent war of words between the higher judiciary and the political executive has revolved around the question of who has the power to appoint judges to the High Courts and the Supreme Court of India. Under the "collegium system" – itself the product of a 1993 judgment of the Supreme Court – the three senior-most judges of the Supreme Court make recommendations for appointments to High Courts; while the government may provide inputs, and ask for reconsideration, if a recommendation is reiterated, then formally, the government is bound to accept it.

The now well-known controversy around the appointment of L. Victoria Gowri to the Madras High Court saw a reversal of this pattern. After the collegium recommended her name for judgeship, a petition was filed in the Supreme Court challenging this appointment, on the basis that she had, allegedly, engaged in "hate speech" against Muslims and Christians. The Chief Justice of India (CJI), who heads the collegium, stated that the collegium had taken cognisance of new material; but before anything could be done about it, the appointment process was completed. A last-ditch attempt to stop it by way of a legal challenge was rejected by two other judges of the Supreme Court.

The problem of opacity

The controversy indicates certain continuing, structural problems with the process of judicial appointments. The first problem is opacity. The functioning of the collegium can be contrasted with judicial appointments in other democratic countries, such as the United States, South Africa, or Kenya; while the specific processes are different, they are all open. In each of these jurisdictions, the names of the judicial candidates are publicly known before the formal commencement of the selection process. In such a scenario, facts, such as Ms. Victoria Gowri's statements, would inevitably come to light, and would be known to the selection bodies. The selection bodies would take them into account, and indeed, given that these jurisdictions require judicial candidates to face questions, the candidate would be asked to explain and justify the statements, and how they relate to her judicial philosophy – a discussion that would be public. At the end of the process, the selection body would make its decision.

By contrast, in India, the candidate's name is effectively made public after their selection by the collegium. The selection process is behind closed doors, where the parties involved are the collegium and the government (through the Intelligence Bureau). This not only has transparency costs, but also, the costs are asymmetrical: it is but obvious that where the government approves of a particular candidate, it can simply withhold relevant information from the collegium (indeed, this is the only possible implication from the CJI's observations about the allegations of hate speech). This, then, creates a situation like the present one: by the time that a candidate's name is in the public domain – thereby allowing for relevant material to be brought to the collegium's notice by the public – the selection has already been made. Once again, the fall-out of this is asymmetric: given that the government retains the power of formal appointment, when it approves a candidate, it can rush the process through (as happened in the present case). In other cases, the government can exercise a pocket veto (which it has also done with respect to the Madras High Court, by refusing to appoint a judge in the teeth of an express direction by the collegium).

> While the order dismissing the challenge to L. Victoria Gowri's appointment was a given, the case also points to the flaw with the present structure of the judicial appointments process — one that benefits the executive

A Janus-faced collegium

The above issue leads directly into the second problem. Once a collegium recommendation has been made, the only way of contesting it is through a legal challenge. However, that challenge must be before the Supreme Court itself, leading to a set of awkward situations: the decision of the collegium – the three (or five) senior-most judges of the Supreme Court – must be challenged before their own junior colleagues (and these colleagues will be assigned the case by the CJI, who is himself the head of the collegium). While technically, in recommending a name, the collegium acts as an administrative body, and all administrative decisions are open to judicial review, in practice, one can immediately see the problem with judges being asked to sit in judgment over their own senior colleagues.

The problem was evident during this hearing, where both judges (understandably) exhibited repeated discomfort with being asked to sit in judgment over the collegium's recommendation, and insisted that the collegium must have been aware of all facts when it made its recommendation (notwithstanding the CJI's public observation to the contrary).

It need not be this way. Consider the case of South Africa, where proceedings of the judicial appointments commission have been subjected to judicial review, and where the courts have directed the commission to make their deliberations public. This is not to suggest that the South African appointments process is perfect, but what does exist is a system of checks and balances, at the heart of which are the values of transparency and publicity. And this can only happen if there is a degree of separation between the judicial appointments commission and the court: this allows for a check, and it allows for a corrective mechanism in case of mistakes and errors (because to err is human).

When, however, the appointments body (the collegium), the body for the constitution of Benches (the CJI's office), and the judicial review body (the Supreme Court) are all effectively one and the same, but trying to play different and functionally independent roles, correction becomes very difficult.

Furthermore, the judges insisted that the only question they could consider in judicial review was L. Victoria Gowri's eligibility and not suitability. Leaving aside the question of whether alleged hate speech is a question of suitability or eligibility, this is a correct position, but once again, it depends on the question of suitability having been fully considered during the selection process. We, therefore, return to the problematic structural opacity of the collegium, and how it benefits the political executive: because the proceedings are opaque, and the only other party is the government; the government can influence the materials on the basis of which the collegium determines "suitability". And once the collegium has made its determination, and the names are public (allowing for further material to come out) the question of "suitability" has now been foreclosed. It should be immediately obvious that this is severely detrimental to judicial independence.

The root of the problem

The judicial order dismissing the challenge to Ms. Victoria Gowri's appointment was the chronicle of a failure foretold: once the collegium's recommendation was in, it was obvious that, for the reasons explained above, there would be no going back, regardless of the desires and motivations of the individual actors involved. But taking a step back from the specific actors in this drama, it is important to locate the roots of the problem in the structure of our judicial appointments process. The present structure is problematic both in principle but also because it asymmetrically benefits the political executive. While L. Victoria Gowri's case is a stark example of this asymmetry, the problem does not begin or end with this appointment. What we need is an appointments process that genuinely safeguards judicial independence from executive dominance.

A Nordic-India connect to power a green transition

Jan Christian Vestre

is the Norwegian Minister of Trade and Industry

Ville Skinnari

is the Finnish Minister for Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade

Over the last decades, Nordic countries have been pioneering green technologies. Together, the Nordics and India can power the green transition the world needs.

The thought of the Nordic countries might evoke different things to an Indian. Snow, fjords, lakes, and northern lights are definitely things we have plenty of. Over the last decades, we have also been at the forefront of developing new green technologies and solutions such as hydrogen, offshore wind, batteries and carbon capture and storage – solutions that are essential for the world to succeed in the green transition it desperately needs.

The Nordics have succeeded in building stable, secure, welfare-based societies that, to a large extent, manage to meet the needs and the wishes of their inhabitants.

Our common ambition is for the Nordic region to become the most sustainable and integrated region in the world by 2030. We work together to build a green, competitive, and socially sustainable region. However, the Nordic countries alone cannot deliver the green transition the world requires. Together, the Nordics and India can deliver key technologies and solutions to stop climate change and boost green growth.

Connecting with India

At the Nordic-India Summit held in Copenhagen in May 2022, the five Nordic Prime Ministers and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi agreed to intensify cooperation on digitalisation, renewable energy, maritime industries, and the circular economy. Mr. Modi expressed an interest in joint Nordic solutions that can support India's green transition. It is very much with this in mind that we, the Trade Ministers of Norway and Finland, are currently visiting India together (February 9-10). During our visit, we aim to showcase the added value to the partnership we can bring to India and learn from the impressive innovations and digital solutions being developed in India.

> The Nordic countries are ready to offer their technologies and expertise to India as it moves towards a green, digital, and innovative future

We have with us business delegations and companies that are leaders within sectors such as clean energy, circular economy, digitalisation, tourism, and the maritime sector. They have great ambitions for increased collaboration with India.

Our most valued and renowned businesses are already operating in India and have made substantial investments. Our business community in India is also growing. There are now 240 Norwegian and Finnish companies in India.

Trade links that can grow

The past year has seen a significant rise in trade and investments between Finland and India, and India has grown to become a priority country for Finland. A great illustration of this is that Finland opened a new Consulate General in Mumbai, which will be inaugurated tomorrow (February 10). This further increases the number of Nordic representations in India's commercial capital and will contribute to strengthening India-Finnish ties. Several Indian companies are looking towards Finland for its expertise in areas of technology and innovation, sustainability, digitalisation, carbon neutrality and more. An increasing number of Indian students, researchers, and experts have been moving to Finland as well. Finnish companies such as Nokia and Fortum see India as their largest growth market now and have some of their most significant investments in India.

Trade between Norway and India has doubled in the last three years. The Norwegian Sovereign Wealth Fund is likely to become one of India's largest single foreign investors (around $17.6 billion). The Norwegian government has also recently established a new Climate Investment Fund for investments in renewables abroad, and India has been defined as a focus country. Almost ₹1,500 crore have been invested so far in India through the climate investment fund, and the number of investments is increasing rapidly.

However, there is still significant untapped potential for trade and further collaboration.

Both Norway and Finland have ongoing free trade agreement and investments negotiations (FTA) with India. Finland, as a member of the European Union (EU), is a part of the EU-India FTA negotiations, and Norway is negotiating through the European Free Trade Association. Finalising the free trade and investments agreements with India is a priority for us. There are very few issues that are outstanding, and we are convinced that it should be possible to conclude negotiations swiftly.

The Indian Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, has stated that today's trade agreements must be fair, equitable and balanced. We very much agree with these perspectives. This is a priority for us too. Our trade agreements have an ambition to be comprehensive and mutually beneficial.

There is a great deal of complementarities in our trade relations, as our exchange in goods is of a different nature. In addition, trade in services is an area of significant potential, especially with tourism, education, IT, energy, maritime and financial services.

As India takes rapid strides into a green, digital, and innovative future, Nordic countries such as Finland and Norway stand ready to share experiences and be a part of India's transition. Although we are significantly smaller than India population-wise and are located on the other side of the globe, we do have world-leading technologies and expertise to offer. Technologies and innovations that are successful and are scaled-up in India can easily be transferred to other parts of the world. Together, the Nordics and India can be the powerhouse of the green transition globally.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Quake and aid

It is distressing to learn from various reliable news sources that getting aid to Syria is being affected by political and logistical challenges. It is shocking that the West is still looking at the government of Bashar al-Assad as one to be kept on the margins. Analysis that there is a reluctance to route aid to Damascus after western sanctions is disturbing.

Maninder Singh Grewal,
New Delhi

One feels deep empathy for Syria in particular which seems to be facing a series of unfortunate events, both man-made and natural. One evinces intense grief for the lives and livelihoods lost. India needs to stand as one with the people of Syria and Turkey as they try to get through this tragedy and get back to life.

Netra Raghunandhan,
Bengaluru

Apart from the inclement weather, what is hampering rescue efforts in north-western Syria is affected areas falling under rebel-held regions. In this hour of a gigantic humanitarian crisis, sectarian as well as political and strategic differences should be set aside and aid allowed to flow freely and expeditiously to the victims. Turkey and Syria need every bit of attention and help from the international community.

Kosaraju Chandramouli,
Hyderabad

Mirage of peace

This crisis in Pakistan can be turned around if sense prevails in Pakistan and Islamabad gets into, say, a 25-year-long year peace treaty with India (Editorial page, February 8). This would be a game-changer, allowing both countries to concentrate on alleviating the real problems of the common man. Crores can be saved and spent on welfare than on defence.

O.P. Swaminathan,
Bengaluru

In Parliament

It is quite evident from the proceedings in Parliament that the government is in no mood to investigate the Hindenburg report on alleged financial malfeasance by a prominent business group. The charges are too serious to be brushed off, and there needs to be at least some semblance of a credible investigation into the matter. The counter-attack by the government against the Opposition, ridiculing some parties and pointing to their humongous corruption, has its limitations. The Prime Minister should remember that attack cannot always be the best form of defence.

S.K. Choudhury,
Bengaluru

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

The role of labour unions in emerging sectors

K.R. Shyam Sundar

is Professor, XLRI, Xavier School of Management, Jamshedpur

There have been many reports of lay-offs in the last few months, especially in emerging sectors. Lay-offs have been taking place not only in India, but in major economies like the U.S. too. Large, medium and small enterprises as well as start-ups have let go of dozens or even thousands of workers. In 2022, start-ups including Byju's, Ola, Unacademy, Vedantu, Chargebee, WhiteHat Jr, Udaan and CityMall announced lay-offs. Their reasons included restructuring, cost-cutting, automation, financial constraints, performance rating, adverse economic conditions and changes in the business model. At the global level, Alphabet, Amazon, Meta, Microsoft, Twitter and Apple, among others, have let go of employees. Amazon cited an uncertain economy and rapid hires in the past as reasons for retrenchment.

The Amazon story

At the same time, unionisation attempts in these giant companies have caught our imagination. Amazon workers at the warehouse at Staten Island called JFK8 succeeded in forming the Amazon Labour Union under the leadership of Chris Smalls, who had been fired from the company. Amazon reacted by filing numerous objections with the National Labour Relations Board, the federal body that protects the rights of private sector employees to join together. On the other hand, employees at the warehouse near Albany voted overwhelmingly against unionisation in October 2022 as many of them were sceptical of the bargaining power of a union vis-à-vis a giant like Amazon.

In India, Amazon shut down Amazon Food and Amazon Academy. It retrenched workers in the Indian facility in a gradual manner. The Nascent Information Technology Employees Senate, which works for the welfare, rights, justice and empowerment of IT (Information Technology), BPO (business process outsourcing) and KPO (knowledge process outsourcing) professionals in India, has alleged that Amazon violated labour laws. It also complained to the Union Labour Minister, seeking his Ministry's intervention. The Deputy Chief Labour Commissioner in Bengaluru served a notice seeking information from the company. But it is well-known how seriously employers, especially multi-national corporations (MNCs), take labour departments; they ignore conciliation meetings more often than trade unions. NITES President Harpreet Singh Saluja vows to fight Amazon, but this will not be easy.

The Hirschman model

The question we can then ask is whether collective action can be taken in emerging enterprises. Start-ups hardly have trade unions in their facilities and so retrenchments in these companies go uncontested.

Compared to conventional industries such as manufacturing, public utilities, and conventional financial sectors such as traditional banking and insurance, forming unions in modern and emerging sectors is much more difficult. Long ago, Freeman and Medoff examined the effect of trade unionism on the exit behaviour of workers in the context of the 'exit-voice-loyalty' model of Albert Hirschman. I use this with some modifications to explain my point.

On the demand side, the IT and IT-enabled Services employees felt no need for trade unions as unions are typically associated with manual labour, while IT employees are associated with "elitism" and "professionalism". It is believed that IT employees do not need trade unions as they have competitive compensation pay packages, supposedly good conditions of work and a mechanism to address grievances. And so, they stay on and are loyal to the company and the industry. If these conditions are violated, they switch to other organisations as they have the required skill sets (exit); hence, labour turnover in this sector has been rather high. They do not collectively bargain or strike or resort to legal action as middle-class employees who go to court would be stigmatised (voice). And many survive by simply keeping quiet (loyalty).

Despite this, announcements of massive lay-offs, such as by Tata Consultancy Services in 2015, have led to the birth of labour unions in this sector in India. Bad human resource policies and practices, too, have provoked or prompted workers to unionise. But the rate of formation of unions and the union activities in this industry (on the supply side) do not instill confidence in the minds of employees.

A huge ask

Unions in the IT sector have to deal with both Indian and Western behemoths, which is a huge ask. The state obviously needs MNCs to stay on in India. Start-ups don't have the ideal conditions for unionisation. Employees would rather accept low-paying jobs than unionise. Further, trade unions are fighting on multiple fronts. They are struggling to retain historical labour rights, secure social security for the millions of informal workers and fight the adversities created during and after COVID-19. Industrial accidents, too, are frequent. Many garment and electronics industries, for instance, which have wide supply chains, violate labour rights. Unions have sometimes succeeded in securing marginal rights. But there is only so much that they can do. The Amazon story is going viral in the 500 million labour market in India where hardly 10% of the total workforce is unionised.

However, this is not to brush aside the fact that unions need to be encompassing of all workers and be the vanguard of workers' mobilisation. After all, they are the only historically tested collective labour institutions.

The rate of formation of unions and the union activities in this industry do not instill confidence in the minds of employees

Tamil Nadu's heightened border challenge

Security threats from drug lords and infiltrators loom large

STATE OF PLAY

S. Vijay Kumar
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With a 1,076 km-long porous coastline and a border with three States, Tamil Nadu is facing a heightened border challenge after many years.

In recent weeks, there have been frequent intelligence warnings to the State government about the likely entry of drug lords and infiltrators through the sea route. Early this week, a speedboat was found abandoned on the shore at Dhanushkodi in Ramanathapuram district. Intelligence agencies quickly sent out an alert that the plastic boat belonged to a fisherman in Analaitheevu near Jaffna in Sri Lanka, and could have been used to smuggle contraband or infiltrators into the country. There have been several such cases of boats being found at landing points in coastal districts. Not many of these have led to arrests of suspected infiltrators or the seizure of smuggled goods.

It is not just the arrival of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees that is a cause for concern, but also of smugglers indulging in drug or arms or human trafficking. Though the number of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees is low, law-enforcement agencies say there has been no respite in the activities of smugglers engaged in drugs and arms trafficking. In March 2021, coastal security agencies seized 301 kg of heroin, five AK 47 rifles and 1,000 rounds of 9-mm ammunition from six Sri Lankan nationals onboard the *Ravihansi*. The case exposed the role of some Sri Lankan nationals in the Tiruchi Special Camp (where foreign nationals facing criminal cases are lodged). A probe by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) revealed that the suspects were in touch with Haji Salim, a Pakistani drug lord, and were placing orders for huge consignments of drugs to be transported via sea to Sri Lanka. The money was allegedly being raised to aid the revival of the banned Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Central and State intelligence agencies have also issued advisories about People's Liberation Army personnel who landed in Sri Lanka with satellites, drones and other high-tech communication gadgets and were heard saying on record that they were exploring opportunities in sea cucumber farming. Chinese 'investment' in sea cucumber farming in northern Sri Lanka has sparked security concerns as the projects are close to India's southern coast.

Last August, the Tamil Nadu Coastal Security Group also issued an alert citing Central intelligence input that a Chinese ship used to monitor satellites and rockets/intercontinental missile launches was docked at the Hambantota Port. The Group called for adequate security arrangements in view of sensitive installations such as nuclear establishments and seaports across the coastline.

A large number of Bangladeshi nationals too have illegally entered India through West Bengal and have settled in several parts of Tamil Nadu, posing as Bengalis. Senior police officers say these illegal immigrants have impersonated Indians and acquired documents such as Aadhaar cards, PAN cards and passports.

Police officers say about 93,000 Sri Lankan Tamils are staying (following registration) in refugees' camps or outside in Tamil Nadu and Odisha. "We suspect that an equal number of refugees, such as Bangladeshi immigrants, might be illegally staying in the State. It is hard to track them as they might have obtained proof of address/travel documents with fictitious names and settled in those areas for many years," says a senior police officer.

While Tamil Nadu is gearing up to counter these cross-border challenges, fresh alerts are being issued on the threat to internal security from suspected Islamic State (IS) operatives. On the eve of Deepavali last year, weeks after a ban on the Popular Front of India, an LPG cylinder exploded inside a car in Coimbatore. The NIA described it as a suspected IS module. Another suspect who sustained injuries in an autorickshaw blast in Mangaluru, Karnataka, had visited Tamil Nadu prior to the explosion.

The State police are also investigating intelligence inputs that more than a dozen law college students in the southern districts of Tamil Nadu have been inducted into the CPI (Maoist). The Maoists are trying to revive the Western Ghats Special Zonal Committee and establish their base in the tri-junction forests of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. For the Tamil Nadu police, it is no longer enough to just maintain law and order; they have the larger task at hand of preventing infiltrations and terror strikes.

LeBron James — the epitome of excellence, versatility, durability

The basketball maestro is in a league of his own as a prolific scorer, astute passer and diligent rebounder

DATA POINT

Srinivasan Ramani

LeBron James, among the most prolific sportspersons in the world, created history yet again on Wednesday. After scoring 38 points in a game against Oklahoma City Thunder, the Los Angeles Lakers hoopster became the leading scorer in the NBA regular season and took his overall tally to 38,390 points, three more than the longstanding record of the former Lakers great, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. **Table 1** shows the top 10 scorers in the NBA.

Abdul-Jabbar's record held for nearly 34 years. He last played a regular season game in April 1989, finishing a 20-year-old career at the age of 42. LeBron, who was drafted as an 18-year-old by the Cleveland Cavaliers in 2003, managed to beat Abdul-Jabbar's record in his 20th season too. At 38, LeBron shows no signs of decline. He can be expected to play for more seasons and take his scoring tally to more than 40,000 points.

Abdul-Jabbar's tally remained a tough mark to reach because there were few players in the NBA who could match his relentless scoring output and durability. The 7'2" centre was renowned for his unblockable 'sky hook' – the towering shot he took from the posts and other regions within the three-point arc. Indeed, nearly all the points scored by Abdul-Jabbar were either a result of two-point shots or of free throws, with only one three-pointer made in 18 attempts (the NBA began the three-point line in the 1979-80 season). It took 15,837 field goals made out of a whopping 28,307 field goal attempts for him to reach his tally.

In contrast, LeBron managed to reach this mark by becoming a proficient three-point shooter both in volume and in efficiency mid-career. That allowed him to do so with fewer field goals (14,053) and fewer attempts (27,829), including 2,237 three-pointers made in 6,494 attempts.

No other active player in the NBA has a tally that is within 10,000 points of LeBron's 38,390 **(Table 2)**. The semi-retired Carmelo Anthony has 28,289. Only the sharpshooter forward, Kevin Durant, of Brooklyn Nets, with 26,684 points, seems to have a theoretical chance of catching up with LeBron's current mark considering his ability to score consistently.

What is remarkable about LeBron's achievement is that he is not merely a scorer in the true sense. An astute passer, the 6' 8" forward revolutionised the idea of the 'point forward' in the league. He has brought court vision and playmaking not seen since the days of Abdul-Jabbar's superstar teammate Earvin 'Magic' Johnson. With a preternatural ability to bulldoze his way to the rim and score at ease, LeBron has been an offensive machine in the league, winning games by scoring the ball and passing it to the open man when required, besides helping with rebounding and leading fast breaks.

Chart 3 shows players with more than 5,000 points and 2,000 assists in the game (the size of the circles is also ordered on rebounds per game). By averaging 27.23 points, 7.34 assists, and 7.5 rebounds, LeBron is in a league of his own. No other player has come close to scoring 30,000 points and retaining this statistical profile except Michael Jordan (30.1 points, 5.3 assists and 6.2 rebounds per game). Chart 3 also shows one contemporary player, Luka Doncic, the Slovenian point forward of the Dallas Mavericks, whose statistical profile into year five of his short career so far, is in LeBron-like territory with 27.4 points, 8 assists and 8.6 rebounds per game (8,531 points and 2,483 assists overall). Only time will tell whether he will match the endurance and physical durability of LeBron who has averaged nearly 71 games per season in 20 years to make his mark as one of the greatest ever.

Rewriting the record books

The tables and charts are based on data collated from Basketball-Reference.com. In the photo, LeBron James moves past Kareem Abdul-Jabbar after breaking the latter's record to become the NBA's all-time leading scorer

Table 1 | The top 10 scorers in the NBA

Rank	Player	Games Played	Total minutes	Total points	Prominent teams
1	LeBron James	1,410	53,741	38,390	Cavaliers, Heat, Lakers
2	Kareem Abdul-Jabbar	1,560	57,446	38,387	Bucks, Lakers
3	Karl Malone	1,476	54,852	36,928	Jazz
4	Kobe Bryant	1,346	48,643	33,643	Lakers
5	Michael Jordan	1,072	41,010	32,292	Bulls, Wizards
6	Dirk Nowitzki	1,522	51,367	31,560	Mavericks
7	Wilt Chamberlain	1,045	47,859	31,419	Warriors, 76ers, Lakers
8	Shaquille O'Neal	1,207	41,917	28,596	Magic, Lakers, 3 others
9	Carmelo Anthony	1,260	43,513	28,289	Nuggets, Knicks, 4 others
10	Moses Malone	1,329	45,071	27,409	Rockets, 76ers, 5 others

Table 2 | No other active player in the NBA has a tally that is within 10,000 points of LeBron's 38,390

Rank	Player	Points
1	LeBron James	38,390
2	Carmelo Anthony	28,289
3	Kevin Durant	26,684
4	James Harden	24,233
5	Russell Westbrook	24,125
6	Chris Paul	21,413
7	Stephen Curry	21,183
8	DeMar DeRozan	21,164
9	Damian Lillard	18,805
10	Rudy Gay	17,528

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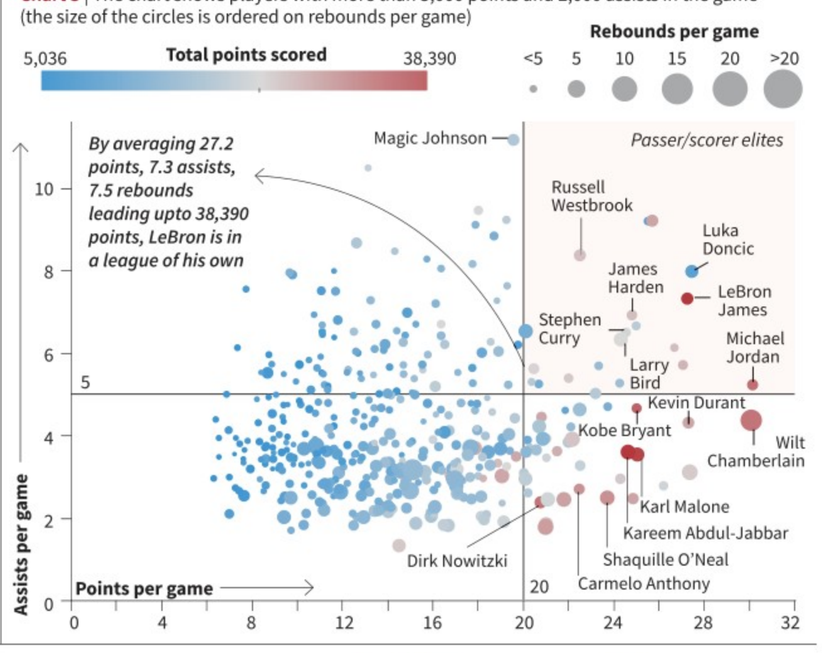
Chart 3 | The chart shows players with more than 5,000 points and 2,000 assists in the game (the size of the circles is ordered on rebounds per game)



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 9, 1973

New hitch in Ind-US ties: Envoy may defer departure for Delhi

Washington, Feb. 8: An unexpected chill has crept into Indo-US relations following Mrs. Indira Gandhi's sharp criticism of the US at the One-Asia Assembly in New Delhi on Tuesday and Washington's caustic rejoinder. This appears to have nullified months of patient efforts by both sides, behind the scenes and publicly, to place their relationship on an even keel. It now seems certain that one of its unfortunate consequences would be a White House ordered "diplomatic delay" in Ambassador Moynihan's departure for Delhi. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee had cleared his nomination yesterday and sent it to the Senate which approved of his nomination to-day. Mr. Moynihan had hoped to leave for Delhi on Sunday. Present indications are that he may not be allowed to take up his post during the period of strained relations. Since both sides do not apparently want the position to become irretrievable and hope that the latest strain is nothing more than 'part of the ups and downs' they had always expected to encounter, the U.S. is trying not to link Mr. Moynihan's delayed departure with the latest tension. Officials here agreed that it would make it uncomfortably similar to the Swedish episode of last December. When Swedish Premier Olaf Palme likened the U.S. bombing of North Vietnam to Nazi atrocities, Mr. Nixon ordered the U.S. Charge d' Affaires in Stockholm, who had returned here for consultations, not to return to his post, and told the Swedes not to send their new envoy to Washington in a hurry. If Mrs. Gandhi's sharp remark about the US role in Asia was unexpected, so was Washington's equally harsh response.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 9, 1923

War debts

Washington, Feb. 7: In submitting the report of the American debt commission to Congress, President Hardiag requested its approval of the agreement with Britain regarding her debt to America, as a recommitment of the English speaking world to the validity of contract. He approved the judgment of the commission that the agreement fully preserved integrity of obligations and represented the first great step towards the re-adjustment of the inter-governmental obligations growing out of the war.

From Page One

RBI lifts loan costs to tame inflation

"At this point of time, I would like to say that the Indian banking system, including the NBFC sector, continues to be resilient and strong. Based on our assessment, the large exposure guidelines of the RBI have been fully complied with by all the banks. The strength, the size and the resilience of the Indian banking system is now much larger and much stronger to be affected by an individual incident or a case," the RBI Governor emphasised.

"When banks lend money to a company, they do not lend on the basis of the market capitalisation of that particular company. They lend on the basis of strength of that company and fundamentals," he added, without naming a company or group.

Speaking on the economy, Mr. Das said: "The Indian economy remains resilient... it has withstood successive global shocks over the last three years." Noting that inflation had shown signs of moderation and the "worst is behind us", Mr. Das said still the RBI could not afford to take its eyes off inflation.

"We need to see a decisive moderation in inflation. We have to remain unwavering in our commitment to bring down inflation... monetary policy has to be tailored to ensuring a durable disinflation process," he added.

The RBI chief said the real policy rate had moved into positive territory and the banking system had exited from the *chakravyuh* of excess liquidity without causing any disruption. The monetary policy transmission was also picking up, he added.

My shield is the trust of 140 cr. Indians, says PM

Without mentioning specifics of the allegations levelled against him, Mr. Modi said that criticism was the bedrock of democracy, a *shuddhi yagya* (purifying trial by fire). However, instead of constructive criticism, "some people indulge in compulsive criticism", he said.

"People levelling such compulsive criticism may note that these things will not pass muster with people who are experiencing basic facilities for the first time," he said, enumerating the various welfare programmes of the government like free food grain, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi income support scheme for farmers, and tap connections to eight crore households under the Har Ghar Jal programme. He emphasised that the trust of Indians in him was not due to newspaper headlines or glitzy appearances on television, but due to his work in his long career in public life.

In a speech peppered with couplets from satirist Kaka Hathrasi and poet Dushyant Kumar, Mr. Modi also took a veiled dig at Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi. He said that some speeches made on Tuesday were "lauded by their ecosystem" and "maybe they slept well and couldn't wake up [on time]". This was a reference to Mr. Gandhi, who led the attack against the government on the Adani issue, not being present when the PM started speaking, although he did join the proceedings during the course of the speech.

Mr. Modi said the nature of Indian society was such that while it tolerated "negativity", it did not accept it. "When they [Opposition] lose elections, they blame the Election Commission and the electronic voting machines; if judgments go against their wishes, they blame the courts; if corruption is investigated, they blame the CBI and Enforcement Directorate (ED) for having an agenda other than investigation. In fact, one can say that while the voters could not convince the Opposition to unite, ED has done so," he said.

'The UPA's lost decade'

Mr. Modi described the "negativity" among the Opposition as stemming from, first, the multiple mandates given to the BJP by the people; and second, typical of the 10 years of the UPA government which he described as the "lost decade" between 2004-2014. The years 2020-2030, on the other hand, would be "India's decade", he said.

"Between 2004-2014, we had power blackouts, terror attacks took place and inflation was in double digits," the PM said. He compared his own government's performance favourably to that of the UPA, stating that India's position on the global stage had strengthened. As evidence, he pointed to India's Presidency of the G-20 group of nations this year, and the fact that the country had become the fifth largest economy in a challenging global environment buffeted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the war between Ukraine and Russia. .

The Motion of Thanks to the President was then passed by the Lok Sabha by voice vote.

Turkey, Syria quake deaths near 12,000

Emergency workers on Wednesday saved some children found under a collapsed building in the hard-hit Turkish province of Hatay, where whole stretches of towns have been levelled.

The World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has warned that time is running out for the thousands injured and those still feared trapped.

The White Helmets leading efforts to rescue people buried under rubble in rebel-held areas of Syria have appealed for international help in their "race against time".

Amit Shah, Adhir face-off over demand for China talks

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said that the Jawaharlal Nehru-led Congress goverment in 1962 allowed a discussion in Parliament on the India-China war after India lost "thousands of hectares of land" while the situation now between the two countries was not comparable to that time.

He was intervening during the speech by leader of the Congress Legislature Party in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhary, who demanded a discussion on the India-China border issue, which has been consistently denied by the government after the face-off between the two countries in 2020.

When Mr. Chowdhary raised the issue of Chinese encroachment, Mr. Shah said, "He is citing news reports on this issue. To speak over such sensitive issues without authentic facts is irresponsible."

Collegium rejigs proposals for HCs; Vinod Chandran named for Patna court

He was earlier recommended as CJ of the Gauhati High Court; in a resolution published on Wednesday, collegium recommended the name of Justice Sandeep Mehta for Gauhati

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium recalled its earlier recommendation to appoint a Kerala High Court judge, Justice K. Vinod Chandran, as the Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court and has proposed his appointment as the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court.

The collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, reasoned that the appointment of the Chief Justice at Patna High Court "is required to be made" following the elevation of Justice Sanjay Karol as a Supreme Court judge on February 4. Justice Karol was the Patna Chief Justice before his appointment to the top court.

The two separate collegium recommendations of Justice Karol and four other judges to the Supreme Court and Justice Chandran and two other judges as Chief Justices of High Courts were both made on December 13, 2022.

The collegium stated that the positions of Chief Justice in various High Courts has fallen vacant owing to retirement and the recent elevations to the Supreme Court.

"Mr. Justice K. Vinod Chandran is the seniormost judge of the Kerala High Court with wide experience. Having regard to the above circumstances, the collegium resolves to recall its earlier recommendation for appointment of Mr. Justice K. Vinod Chandran as Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court and resolves to recommend that he be appointed as Chief Justice of the High Court of Judicature at Patna, as he is fit and suitable for the same," the collegium resolution dated February 7 but published on Wednesday said.

Justice K. Vinod Chandran

Justice Chandran is due to retire on April 24, 2025.

In his place, the collegium has now recommended Rajasthan High Court judge, Justice Sandeep Mehta, to be appointed as the Gauhati High Court Chief Justice. The position of the Gauhati Chief Justice had fallen vacant following the retirement of Justice R.M. Chhaya. Justice Mehta is due to retire on January 10, 2025.

The collegium, in a separate resolution, recommended Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh to take over as the Chief Justice of the Tripura High Court upon the retirement of Justice Jaswant Singh on February 22.

The collegium noted that it had earlier already recommended the transfer of Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh from Jharkhand to Tripura. He is the senior most judge in the Jharkhand High Court.

PUCL seeks probe into death of journalist

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The People's Union of Civil Liberties (PUCL) on Wednesday demanded an impartial investigation into the killing of journalist Shashikant Warishe in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri district. Warishe was mowed down by a car allegedly driven by a local land dealer, Pandarinath Amberkar, near the Rajapur highway, on Monday. He sustained grievous injuries and died on Tuesday.

Warishe had written about banners with photographs of the local land dealer with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis in a Marathi daily, *Mahanagri Times*.

A statement signed by PUCL president Mihir Desai and general secretary Lara Jesani demanded that the Maharashtra government also announce compensation for the family of deceased journalist.

One Indian missing, 10 stuck in quake-affected areas of Turkey: MEA

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

One Indian national has been missing in the earthquake that hit Turkey and Syria on Monday, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has said. Briefing the media about the ongoing Indian rescue effort, 'Operation Dost', MEA Secretary (West) Sanjay Verma said 10 Indian citizens are "stuck" in the affected region but he confirmed that they remain unharmed.

Helping hand: NDRF team from India conducting a search and rescue operation in Gaziantep, Turkey, on Wednesday. ANI

Indian officials have set up a control room in Adana in southern Turkey and two Turkish-speaking Indian diplomats have joined the search and rescue teams that had flown in from here.

Mr. Verma informed that there are 3,000 Indian nationals at present in Turkey with 1,850 in and around Istanbul and 250 in Ankara. The rest are "spread all over the country". Sources said that the Indian citizen who has been missing was staying in a hotel in Malatya and the building collapsed during the earthquake.

"Apart from the one Indian missing and 10 Indians who are safe but are sort of in a difficult situation, we do not have any other reports at this point which suggest that the Indian community in that part of Turkey is under any fatal danger," said Mr. Verma adding that three other Indians had approached the Indian teams seeking help and have since moved to a "safer habitation and are doing alright".

The senior diplomat said 'Operation Dost' was put together in consultation with multiple agencies after the earthquake hit Turkey and Syria and that this is the "farthest" that Indian Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief operations over the last two decades have covered.

NDRF set to deploy T.N. firm's drones in Turkey

Sangeetha Kandavel
CHENNAI

To support ongoing relief and rescue efforts in Turkey after the earthquake that left thousands dead, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has requested Chennai-headquartered Garuda Aerospace to provide its DGCA-approved drones for disaster-management operations.

Garuda Aerospace will deploy its Droni drone for surveillance in the most-affected areas to identify victims trapped under rubble and a modified Kisan drone, which will carry payloads, that will help transport emergency medicines, supplies and food for victims.

Agnishwar Jayaprakash, founder and CEO, Garuda Aerospace, said, "Garuda Aerospace is deploying drones to support the ongoing rescue and relief operations. We have sent two of our drones."

Delay in OBC report as panel is finalising disambiguation: govt.

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Commission was tasked with finding out which of the castes dominated reservations

The Union government on Wednesday said that the Justice G. Rohini-led Commission on sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBC) was taking so long because it was currently finalising the "disambiguation" exercise of the entries (caste names) in the existing Central List of OBCs.

The commission, constituted in October 2017, was tasked with finding out which of the nearly 3,000 castes in the OBC grouping dominated reservations and other benefits, and recommending a sub-categorisation of these caste groups so that those caste groups that have been historically pushed out could secure the reservation meant for them.

The commission was initially given 12 weeks to finish its work and submit a report to the government. However, in January this year, the Commission's tenure was extended by another six months – for the fourteenth time.

However, sources aware of the commission's workings told *The Hindu* that the commission's task has been completed and that they are now just "finalising annexures" to their report.

The sources added that the Commission had come up with a model to categorise OBCs into four broad groups, with the maximum share of the 27% quota pie going to the group that has been the most-under-represented since OBC reservation was introduced, and the minimum share going to the caste groups that have dominated this space since.

Aldermen cannot vote in MCD elections: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the Constitution does not allow nominated members (aldermen) of a municipality the right to vote in meetings, while issuing notice to the Lieutenant-Governor and the Protem Presiding Officer of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) in a petition filed by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) alleging deliberate stalling of mayoral elections.

The three-judge Bench listed the case for detailed hearing on February 13 after senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, appearing for AAP mayoral candidate Shelly Oberoi, said the case concerned "destruction of democracy". Mr. Singhvi said that after the elections were held on December 4, polls for the offices of Mayor and other positions have been stalled thrice.

India developing border connectivity due to China concerns: Jaishankar

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India's connectivity projects with Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar have been accelerated due to its "obvious" concerns about the frontier with China, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Tuesday. He cited a number of infrastructure projects along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), and border connectivity efforts with "friendly neighbours", including all nations which share land borders with India, except Pakistan.

"We have focused on rapid development of infrastructure along the northern borders with China for obvious strategic reasons," Mr. Jaishankar told a group of journalists, ahead of an expected attack by Opposition parties in Parliament on the ongoing military stand-off with China at the LAC.

On Monday, Congress MP Manish Tewari gave an adjournment notice, which was subsequently rejected, to discuss what he called "China's land grab", including the recent official report for a security conference on the loss of access to 26 of 65 patrolling points at the LAC, which had been reported in *The Hindu*.

> Work began last month on the strategically important 135-km-long Chushul- Dungti- Fukche- Demchok road in the Ladakh region
>
> **S. JAISHANKAR**
> External Affairs Minister

Upcoming visits

Mr. Jaishankar also told journalists that work began last month on the strategically important 135-km Chushul-Dungti-Fukche-Demchok road in the Ladakh region, the news agency PTI reported.

The Minister's statement, one of the rare times that the government has expressly articulated the Chinese challenge at the LAC since April 2020, is significant as it comes three weeks before a visit by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Mr. Wang is expected to visit Delhi for the G-20 Foreign Ministers' meeting on March 1 and 2, and is also invited to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Foreign Ministers' meeting in Goa in early May. Chinese President Xi Jinping will also be invited to the SCO Summit being planned in June this year, and to the G-20 summit in September.

According to a document circulated by the government, the length of roads constructed in the "China-border areas" during the last eight years (6,806 km between 2014-2022) was nearly double the length of roads constructed in the preceding six years (3,610 km between 2008-2014). It claimed that the same was true for bridge construction in border areas.

In addition, the document listed road, rail, bridge and port connectivity projects in the neighbourhood, including the development and modernisation of integrated checkpoints for smoother trade flows with Nepal, Bangladesh, and Bhutan.

In Nepal, the government has committed ₹500 crore for the construction of 10 roads, and is working on rail links with all neighbours to India's north and east.

SC removes reference from verdict in Sikkim case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered the removal of reference to the Sikkimese-Nepalese as "people of foreign origin" from a January 13 verdict following a plea by the government.

The remark made by the top court in its verdict had sparked protests in Sikkim, with the Sikkimese-Nepalese community taking strong objection over it.

The Bench agreed to remove the part "namely the Bhutia Lepchas and the persons of foreign origin settled in Sikkim like the Nepalese". It said the error had crept in as the original writ petitioners had made more than 25 amendments to the petition without bringing it to the notice of the court.

Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang welcomed the court's decision.

Kharge flays Modi's silence on colleagues spreading hate

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress president and Rajya Sabha Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of keeping "mum" on the actions of his ministerial colleagues who spread hatred, and called him *Mauni Baba*.

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar objected to it, chiding Mr. Kharge that it does not "suit his stature to deploy such language".

Mr. Kharge, while replying to the President's Address in the Rajya Sabha, accused the government of distilling every conversation to communal questions. He sought a probe into the Hindenburg report.

Expressing disapproval, Mr. Dhankhar said, "Are we supposed to believe any random report from any corner of the world? My suggestion is, let us believe in ourselves, our strengths, and our institutions."

Modi is trying to protect Adani; else, he would have ordered probe: Rahul

Congress leader asked why his words, spoken while participating in Motion of Thanks discussion, were expunged from the official records of the Lok Sabha; 18 remarks, including references he had made about the PM and Adani, were removed

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is trying to protect businessman Gautam Adani or else he would have ordered an inquiry into the allegations of fraud by the Adani Group, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said on Wednesday.

Speaking to presspersons minutes after the Prime Minister replied to the Motion of Thanks to the President in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Gandhi said none of his questions involving the Adani Group was answered.

"The Prime Minister was shell-shocked. I only asked how many times he [Mr. Adani] has gone with you. How many times did he meet you. I posed simple questions but got no answers," the Congress leader said.

"I am not satisfied, but it reveals the truth. There was no talk of an inquiry. If he is not a friend, then he should have agreed to an inquiry. There was no probe into shell companies in the defence sector and benami money is changing hands, but the Prime Minister did not say anything on that. It is clear that the Prime Minister is protecting him," Mr. Gandhi added, referring to the Hindenburg report's allegations that the Adani Group operated offshore shell companies.

Burning issue: Congress MP Rahul Gandhi at the Parliament complex during the ongoing Budget Session on Wednesday. PTI

Earlier, Mr. Gandhi had asked why his words, spoken while participating in the Motion of Thanks discussion on Tuesday, were expunged and removed from the official records of the Lok Sabha.

"Why were my words expunged," asked Mr. Gandhi in response to questions from presspersons, who asked him if he would protest against the decision of the Chair.

Late on Tuesday night, the Lok Sabha Secretariat released a draft copy of the transcript of Mr. Gandhi's speech in which most of the references to Mr. Modi and Mr. Adani were removed from the official records.

Speaker's stand

On Wednesday, while speaking at the end of the Motion of Thanks discussion, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla referred to some members making unsubstantiated allegations on the floor of the House, without taking Mr. Gandhi's name directly.

"Some members spoke on issues that fell outside the subject of the President's Address and misused the House to make points without any evidence or proof. This is not in keeping with the dignity of the House," Mr. Birla said.

While Congress leader Jairam Ramesh tweeted that "With the expunging of Rahul Gandhi's remarks on PM linked Adani Maha Mega Scam, deMOcracy was cremated in the Lok Sabha", Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi asserted that Mr. Gandhi did not follow the parliamentary practice of giving advance notice if he wanted to make any allegations against an individual. Mr. Ramesh tweeted that 18 remarks by Mr. Gandhi, including those about Modi-Adani ties, were expunged.

"The Congress leader has made some remarks yesterday. Those were very objectionable and baseless allegations. Those should be expunged and action should be taken against him," Mr. Joshi told Mr. Birla.

Congress is trying to defame Prime Minister, says Rijiju

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

He claimed that some members were using the House to promote their political interests

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Wednesday accused the Congress of trying to defame Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said that the Opposition seemed to have not learnt any lesson from its '*Chowkidar chor hai*' campaign.

In 2019, the Opposition tried to defame the Prime Minister with the slogan '*Chowkidar chor hai*', but people gave a befitting reply by again reposing faith in Mr. Modi, he said during a debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President in the Lok Sabha. "Again the people have made up their minds."

The Law Minister claimed that some members of Parliament were using the House to promote their political interests and it was regrettable.

"Whatever is spoken, should be within the rules... Many Opposition members spoke on issues which were not even vaguely related to the Address," Mr. Rijiju said.

He said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's thinking had not improved even after the Bharat Jodo Yatra and he was still spreading negativity. Mr. Gandhi had launched a blistering attack on the Prime Minister on Tuesday over the Adani issue.

Mr. Gandhi had raised questions over the Prime Minister's foreign tours. To this, Mr. Rijiju replied, "PM goes abroad not for honeymoon or holidays, but for the benefit of the country".

He also said that the Opposition should refrain from demanding a discussion on sensitive issues such as China and should remain united on them.

Opposition members suggest amendments on inflation, farm distress, women's Bill

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

The Opposition has moved 106 amendments to the motion moved by BJP MP K. Laxman in the Rajya Sabha, thanking President Droupadi Murmu for her Address to the joint session of Parliament.

The amendments are for mentioning issues such as inflation, agrarian distress, need to pass the Women's Reservation Bill, unemployment and providing GST compensation to the States in the Motion. The amendments will be put to vote on Thursday after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reply to the two-day debate that concluded on Wednesday.

DMK MP Tiruchi Siva raises concerns about depreciation of the rupee against the dollar

MPs from the Left parties and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) have moved three amendments, saying that they "regret that there is no mention" in the address about the Centre's failure to pass the Women's Reservation Bill.

DMK MP Tiruchi Siva's amendment said that he regrets that the Address does not mention that petrol prices and diesel prices have been hiked 78 times and 76 times, respectively, with only seven and 10 reductions. Mr. Siva also wanted to raise concerns about the depreciation of the rupee against the dollar, adding that he would push for these amendments to be adopted by the House on Thursday.

CPI(M) MP John Brittas's amendments said that the government's failure to curb inflation and the rising prices of essential commodities, as well as its refusal to legally guarantee minimum support prices for all agricultural produce, should have found a mention in the Motion.

CPI MP Binoy Viswam criticised the government's "inaction" to boost the dismal 17.2% labour participation rate of women.

Parties persist with demand for debate on Adani issue

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi, the Aam Aadmi Party and the Uddhav Thackeray-led faction of the Shiv Sena persisted with the demand for a debate in Parliament on the Hindenburg report alleging fraud by the Adani Group.

The BRS members walked out of both Houses on Wednesday, protesting against the government's lack of response on the issue, and the other two parties joined them in a walkout from the Rajya Sabha.

The members of the parties then staged a protest march within the Parliament premises, demanding a probe into the revelations and the constitution of a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

In the Lok Sabha, BRS members held up placards just before Prime Minister Narendra Modi was to speak in response to the debate in the House on the Motion of Thanks to the President.

When Speaker Om Birla objected, Lok Sabha floor leader Namma Nageshwar Rao said, "For the last three days, we have been demanding a Joint Parliamentary probe into the allegations against the Adani Group. We wanted to keep our demand in front of Prime Minister too. But since we are not being allowed, we stage a walkout."

Dayanidhi Maran raises lack of quorum, Lok Sabha stops Budget discussion

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday began a discussion on the Union Budget, but the House had to be adjourned before the scheduled time due to a lack of quorum.

The House sitting had been extended till 8 p.m. to continue the debate on the Union Budget.

The Budget discussion began right after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reply to the House on the Motion of Thanks to the President and subsequent passing of the same in the Lok Sabha.

The first speaker was Gaurav Gogoi of the Congress followed by BJP member P.P. Chaudhary. However, as the third speaker, T.R. Baalu of the DMK, finished his speech, his party colleague Dayanidhi Maran raised the quorum issue.

Dayanidhi Maran

When Mr. Maran said there was no quorum, senior BJD MP B. Mehtaab told the Speaker that if a member demanded quorum, then it had to be called for.

Following this, Speaker Om Birla asked officials to ring the quorum bell to ensure presence of at least 55 members, 10% of the House strength. With the government's floor managers failing to muster the requisite numbers, the Speaker adjourned the proceedings for the day.

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury told presspersons, "Soon after the Prime Minister completed his speech and left, all his sycophants followed him. The House had to be adjourned for want of quorum."

(With PTI inputs)

WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, EASTERN CIRCLE (R&B), BALASORE
e-mail:- seec_bls@rediffmail.com
Government of Odisha **"e" Procurement Notice**
Bid Identification No. CCEEC-27/2022-23
No.7451 / Dt.06.02.2023

Nature of work	:-	Building Works
Number of works	:-	01 (One) No Building Works
Amount put to Tender	:-	Rs.734.89 Lakh
Class of Contractor	:-	"A" Class / "Special" Class
Date & Time of availability of bid document in the Portal	:-	Dt.09.02.2023 at 10.00 AM
Last Date / Time of receipt of bid in the portal	:-	Dt.20.02.2023 up to 05.00 PM
Date of opening of bid	:-	Dt.21.02.2023 at 11.00 AM
Name & address of the Office inviting bid	:-	Chief Construction Engineer, Eastern Circle (R&B), Balasore.

The bidders have to participate in **ONLINE** bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **"http//tendersodisha.gov.in"**. All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE mode only.

Sd/- R.Rout, Chief Construction Engineer, Eastern Circle (R&B), Balasore
B-1241: OIPR-34026/11/0030/2223

ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION-2023 (OJEE-2023)

No: OJEE / 064 DATE : 08-02-2023

NOTICE FOR ONLINE APPLICATION FOR OJEE - 2023

Odisha Joint Entrance Examination (OJEE) – 2023 will be conducted during 1st - 2nd week of May, 2023 (tentative) for admission to B.Pharm / MCA / MBA / Int. MBA / B. CAT / M.Tech / M.Tech (Part-Time) / M.Arch / M Plan / M.Pharm and Lateral Entry to B.Tech / B.Pharm Courses in Government and Private Universities and Colleges of Odisha

The Entrance Examination will be conducted in Computer Based Test (CBT) mode for all the courses as mentioned above.

Interested candidates are advised to fill up the respective Application Forms online through OJEE website (www.ojee.nic.in) only.

Filling-up of Online Application through OJEE website begins on 10th February, 2023 and will end on 20th March, 2023.

Please read, carefully, the 'Information Brochure' and the ' Instructions to fill On-line Application Form ', which are available in the OJEE websites to get detailed information regarding eligibility criteria, reservation policy, examination pattern, syllabus etc.

Please note that **Outside State candidates** are not eligible for admission in Government Colleges, but they are eligible for admission in Private Colleges as per Odisha Government rule.

Candidates may install OJEE android App from Google Play Store for latest information and notices.

(For Admission to B.Tech/B.Arch/B.Plan/Int. MSc and MBBS/BDS/BAMS/BHMS courses in Government and Private Colleges of Odisha, candidates have to appear and qualify in JEE (MAIN)-2023 / NEET (UG)-2023 conducted by National Testing Agency, Govt. of India)

For other details, please visit OJEE website: www.ojee.nic.in / www.odishajee.com.

Sd/-
CHAIRMAN, OJEE, Odisha
h-23: OIPR-14020/11/0031/2223

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 22 / (फोन नं. / Ph. No. 0471 - 2564568 / 5669 / 4537)

ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए संक्षिप्त सूचना / BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा ऑनलाइन मद-दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following works.

कार्य का शीर्षक तथा ई-निविदा सूचना सं. / Title of work & E-Tender Notice No.	पी.ए.सी./P.A.C.
1. आरपीपी, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में नए जल उपचार संयंत्र से मौजूदा जीएलआर तक परिशुद्ध जल आपूर्ति लाईन प्रदान करना (सिविल तथा पीएच कार्य) / Providing treated water supply line from New Water Treatment Plant to Existing GLR at RPP, VSSC, Thumba (Civil & PH works), NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/26/2022-23 Dt. 08.02.2023	रु./Rs. 53.15 लाख/Lakhs
2. टर्ल्स, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में एलबीएस उत्पादन सुविधा के लिए भवन का निर्माण (सिविल तथा पीएच कार्य) / Construction of building for LBS Production Facility at TERLS, VSSC, Thumba (Civil & PH works), NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/27/2022-23 Dt. 08.02.2023	रु./Rs. 395.71 लाख/Lakhs
3. टर्ल्स, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में प्रोटो संविरचन शॉप के लिए भवन का निर्माण (सिविल तथा पीएच कार्य) / Construction of building for Proto Fabrication Shop at TERLS, VSSC, Thumba (Civil & PH works), NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/28/2022-23 Dt. 08.02.2023	रु./Rs. 148.46 लाख/Lakhs

डाउनलोड करने की अवधि/Period for downloading: दिनांक 09.02.2023, 10:00 बजे/hrs से/to दिनांक 22.02.2023, 23:00 बजे/hrs

योग्यता मानदंड तथा अन्य ब्यौरों को पाने के लिए इच्छुक निविदाकार ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए विस्तृत सूचना (ई-एनआइटी) का अवलोकन करें, जिसे www.tenderwizard.in/isro or www.isro.gov.in से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। / Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (E-NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website www.tenderwizard.in/isro or www.isro.gov.in.

Sd/- ग्रुप निदेशक / Group Director, सीएमजी, वीएसएससी / CMG, VSSC

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing , 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383. Website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-58/21/2022-23 Date:08.02.2023

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK e–Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Class-I (Civil) issued from KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following work of **Formation of Industrial Layout Including Formation of 24M, 18M, 15M & 12M Wide Asphalt Roads, Construction of Bridges, RCC Culverts, RCC Side Drain, 0.5MLD OHT, HDPE water supply pipeline & GLSR at Kanive Aladahalli Village, Shanthi Hobli, Hassan Taluk, & Doothanur Kaval Dandinahalli Hobli, Channarayapatana Taluk, Hassan District.**

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **22.02.2023 upto 04:30 p.m.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer - 2
DIPR/CP/JA/4582/2022-23

V.O.Chidambaranar Port Authority
Tuticorin
General Administration Department

No: GAD-EST1OESTC/1/2021-GADSrDS-Part(1)/(2386)/D.163 Date: 08/02/2023

Advertisement for Engagement of Professional Functionary on contractual basis

Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for the following Professional Functionary on Contractual basis:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Position	No.of Positions	Consolidated monthly remuneration
1.	Chief Manager (Corporate Legal)	01	Rs. 1,00,000/-

For experience, educational qualification and other details, visit VOC Port's website at www.vocport.gov.in (careers). Last date for the receipt of application is 01.03.2023. Appointment will be on contractual basis and will not be made permanent in any post in Port.

SECRETARY

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
MARINE DEPARTMENT
No:MD/ACCTS/WK-R-12/2022/138
Dated, the 03rd February 2023

Second Corrigendum to e- Tender Call Notice No : MD/ACCTS/WK-R-12/2022/1337 Dt.09.12.2022.

Name of the work : Supply of One Modern Survey Launch and Manning Crew on Hire for Hydrographic Survey of Paradip Port Waters for a period of seven years. Estimated cost put to tender : Rs.24,70,34,847/- excluding GST.

With reference to above tender, as per minutes of pre-bid meeting Dt.05.01.2023 some tender clauses has been modified and revised tender document has been re-floated in the website with extension of date & time for submission and opening of bids through on-line bidding as follows: End Date & Time for submission of Bids : 1600 hours of Dt.23.02.2023. Date & Time for Opening of Tech. Bids - 1630 hours of Dt.24.02.2023. For further details, please log on to the Website : https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.

Dy. Conservator, PPA
PPA/PR/223/2022-23, Dt.07.02.2023

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF IMAGING TECHNOLOGY (C-DIT)
Thiruvallam, Thiruvananthapuram-27
Ph: 0471-2380910/912/895

E-TENDER NOTICE

e- tenders are invited for the **Supply of Portable Colour Over Head Scanner.**

For details and online submission of bids visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Last date of online submission of bids: **20.02.2023, 3.00 PM.**
Tender id: 2023_CDIT_556236_1

08.02.2023 Registrar, C-DIT

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751022
CIN:U40102OR2004SGC007553

TENDER ALERT

1) E-Tender Call Notice No.CPC-42/2022-23: Bids invited in e-tendering mode only under single stage two-bid system for "Procurement of different size Control cables and power cables" at an estimated cost of the package Rs. 9,15,66,595.85/-.

2) E-Tender Call Notice No.CPC-30/2022-23: Bids invited in e-tendering mode only under single stage two-bid system for "Supply of 24f/48f OPGW" at an estimated cost of the package Rs.1,26,04,701/-.

Complete set bidding documents are available at **http://tenderwizard.com/OPTCL** & **http://www.optcl.co.in**.

HIPR-59/2022-23
CAD-4773 OIPR-04011/11/0175/2223

Surface-to-air missile: DRDO working to fix a few glitches

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The indigenous Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) being developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is set to be tested again in April with some changes suggested by the Army.

"The mission reliability has to be improved and some glitches have to be fixed. The DRDO is already working on it," a defence source said. The QRSAM with a range of 25-30 km is a pressing requirement for the Army.

The missile was last tested in September 2022 with six flight-tests conducted from Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur, off the Odisha coast as part of evaluation trials by the Army. The missile is designed to operate on the move with search and track capability and fire on a short halt.

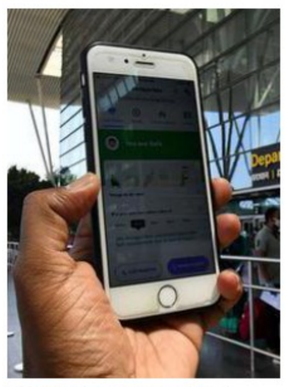
Aarogya Setu app contact-tracing data deleted: IT Ministry

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Contact-tracing data from the COVID-19 pandemic collected by the Aarogya Setu app has been deleted from government databases, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology said in a written response in Parliament.

"In accordance with the provisions of the [Aarogya Setu Data Access and Knowledge Sharing Protocol, 2020], the contact-tracing feature of the Aarogya Setu mobile application has been discontinued and contact-tracing data collected through it has been deleted," the government said in response to a question by Congress MP Amar Singh.

According to an RTI application filed by the Internet Freedom Foundation, that policy was discontinued by June 2022.


The Aarogya Setu app was launched on April 2, 2020.

The Aarogya Setu app had raised privacy concerns after its launch in the initial months of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Globally, contact-tracing apps proved to be an inadequate solution to the tracing of potentially infected people, as the virus spread more widely. The government insisted that the app had helped it identify hotspots in individual districts.

6,775 URLs blocked in 2022, panel met 53 times

The previous highest was 9,849 in 2020, when the government blocked several posts on social media that were critical of its handling of the pandemic; in 2021, there were 6,096 block orders

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A committee to consider blocking requests under the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information for Public) Rules, 2009, met 53 times in 2022, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology told Parliament on Wednesday.

The government issued orders directing the "blocking [of] a total of 2,799; 3,635; 9,849; 6,096 and 6,775 URLs during the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, respectively", Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said in a written reply, in response to a question by Congress MP Karti P. Chidambaram.

In 2020, the government blocked several posts on social media that were critical of its handling of the pandemic, and also advised social media platforms to curb posts that called the Delta variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus an "Indian" one. After that year, 2022 represents the highest number of blocking orders issued to Internet providers and social media platforms.

Keeping track: Blocking requests are considered under the provisions of Section 69A of the IT Act, 2000. ISTOCKPHOTO

An RTI response obtained by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) reveals that of the 6,775 posts and websites, almost half were posts on Twitter. The social media platform has been fighting against some takedown orders in the Karnataka High Court, but after the company was acquired by businessman Elon Musk, it has said that legal requests that are valid and and from an authorised entity will be complied with.

"If the Twitter and non-Twitter URLs are taken together, the average for blocking orders recommended by the Review Committee under Rule 7 in 2021 is hundreds per month," CHRI director Venkatesh Nayak wrote in an analysis.

"The Secretary [of] MeitY and the Committee are required to apply their mind to hundreds of such orders every month before giving their approval," Mr. Nayak pointed out. "How much time they have actually devoted to such matters is anybody's guess."

'LazyPay, Kissht bans may be a mistake'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The emergency blocking of the lending apps LazyPay and Kissht may have been done inadvertently, a government official told *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

The websites for LazyPay and Kissht were blocked following an emergency order issued by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology targeting over 200 gambling and lending apps, most of which appeared to be operated from China. The order was the result of a request from the Union Home Ministry.

The two apps were available on the Google Play marketplace for Android smartphones as on Wednesday evening. "There can be an editorial error [following] complaints against similar sounding apps," the official said. A review committee is expected to hold a meeting.

INBRIEF

Hillary Clinton visits Ellora Caves, Grishneshwar temple

Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Wednesday visited the historic Ellora Caves in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra during her two-day private visit here. Ms. Clinton, who arrived with her entourage from Gujarat late on Tuesday, was seen enjoying the splendours of the Rashtrakuta-era Ellora caves which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. She also visited the Grishneshwar temple, which is the 12th Jyotirlinga in the country, located close to Ellora. More than 100 security personnel were deployed during her visit, said officials.

Narcotics worth ₹4.7 cr. seized by Railway Police Force

In a month-long drive across India, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) recovered narcotics worth ₹4.7 crore and arrested 83 peddlers. In addition, the RPF said that it had rescued 35 boys and 27 girls from the clutches of human traffickers. As many as 19 traffickers were handed over to the respective law enforcement agencies. Between 2020 and 2022, up to 4,556 cases had been registered under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, with a recovery of ₹66.53 crore. The RPF conducts the drug seizures under Operation Narcos and rescues trafficking victims under Operation AAHT.

Shimla losing its white winter, just one day of snowfall this season so far

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

Shimla has received only 6 cm of snowfall so far this winter – the season extends from November to March. This has been the second lowest snowfall recorded in the State capital since 2008-09, when snowfall data began to be documented as separate from rainfall. Earlier data was recorded as precipitation, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

In 2009-10, Shimla got a scant 1.8 cm of snow. According to the data compiled at local observatories, Shimla received the highest snowfall in 1989-90, when it recorded 262.2 cm. In 2005-06, the town did not receive any snowfall.

The fragile Himalayan area has been witnessing inconsistent snowfall and abrupt weather changes over the past decade. Only on January 14 did Shimla receive snowfall this season. It was also limited to the Jakhu hill, the highest point of the town, while other areas in the city were deprived of the white cover. Over the past few years, Shimla has received the following amount of snow: 2010-11 (31.5 cm); 2011-12 (119.4 cm); 2012-13 (92.8 cm); 2013-14 (76 cm); 2014-15 (83.8 cm); 2015-16 (25 cm); 2016-17 (106.5 cm); 2017-18 (20.8 cm); 2018-19 (128.8 cm); 2019-20 (198.7 cm); 2020-21 (67 cm); and 2021-22 (161.7 cm).

Changing times: Scanty snowfall in Shimla is a matter of concern in the ecologically fragile Himachal Pradesh. ANI

Surender Paul, Director of the Meteorological Centre, India Meteorological Department, Shimla, said precipitation itself – both snow and rain – has been decreasing, and seasons are showing a shift in pattern. "The winter months are shrinking and the snowfall in peak winter is reducing slightly. Earlier, snowfall was a regular feature in Shimla in December, January, February and even March, but now it's not the same," he said.

He said that over the years, the IMD has observed "climate inconsistency, invariability, and abruptness" with intense cold or too-warm conditions. "This has resulted in extreme weather events of excess rain or snow at one point in time and little or no precipitation-snow in another season. These days we see it's bright and sunny in Shimla, while two decades ago, the winter months would mostly see overcast conditions," Mr. Paul said.

Space tech: import costs 12 times that of exports

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

There's a wide chasm between expenses on imports and earnings from exports in the space technology industry, suggest data made public as part of a response by Space Minister (in-charge) Jitender Singh, in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

In response to a question by DMK MP Kanimozhi on the "...details of total imports and exports carried out in space tech based industry in the country," Mr. Singh said that in the financial year 2021-22, items worth ₹2,114.00 crore were imported for executing various projects and programmes whereas an amount of ₹174.9 crore was generated from exports.

This means that import expenses are 12 times the export earning in space technology sector.

The major imported items include electronic and electrical engineering components, high-strength carbon fibres, space-qualified solar cells, detectors, optics and power amplifiers, among others.

Fiji hopes to partner with India in meeting climate action goals

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The Government of Fiji will seek closer relations with democracies including India, Deputy Prime Minister Biman Prasad, who is on a five-day visit to India, said on Wednesday.

Speaking to *The Hindu* from Bengaluru where he attended events related to the India Energy Week, Dr. Prasad, who is also the Finance Minister of Fiji, expressed hope that Fiji and India would cooperate in meeting climate action goals and in ensuring "common democratic values" in the Indo-Pacific region.

Biman Prasad

Emerging challenges

"Over the past 15 years, Fiji had not promoted ties with other democracies in the way that it should have been. We are focused on developing our ties with other like-minded democracies like India and tackling challenges like climate change," said Dr. Prasad, who highlighted that his visit to India is the first foreign visit by any member of the new government that came to power in December 2022.

Dr. Prasad's National Federation Party joined the three-party coalition in December 2022 after an election failed to give a majority to any single party. The election ended the 16-year government of Frank Bainimarama and brought veteran leader Sitiveni Rabuka as the new Prime Minister.

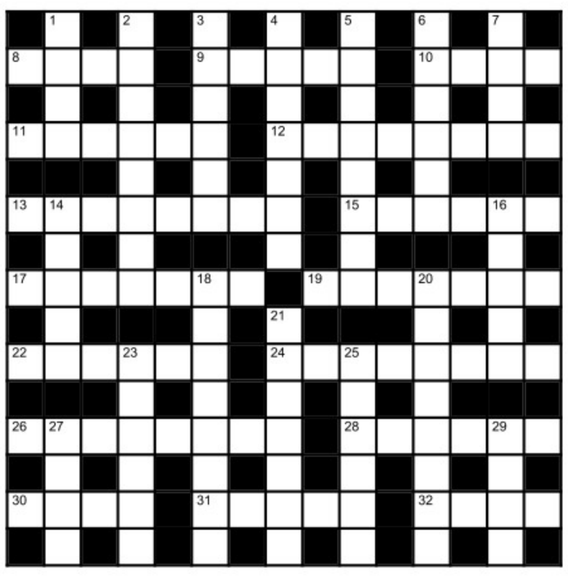
In Bengaluru, Dr. Prasad met India's Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri and the two Ministers discussed possible Indian support to Fiji in its energy transition by supporting the transfer of technology, and building of climate-smart infrastructure.

TH CROSSWORD + 13784

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Mid-day for ex-Pakistani PM? (4)
9 CO! Keg rolled over reptile! (5)
10 Creature went all over the place (4)
11 Finally, book of maps is put on top of table (2,4)
12 Takes back comments on portions of land (8)
13 Met returning insects, for example, in storms (8)
15 Kidnap sailor with pipe (6)
17 Learned saint passed away around mid-January (7)
19 Captain's processed fish (7)
22 After Saturday, vehicle returned to get modern steering system (3-3)
24 Top student with cape (8)
26 This type of clue is used in the French game (8)
28 Money is a large part of troubles? (6)
30 Mexican food found in terracotta cottage (4)
31 Gal, that's an actress from Georgia. (5)
32 Mountain in planet Naboo (4)

Down

1 Female model carries rings for base (4)
2 Removed top of container and caned pup violently (8)
3 Setback after Ottoman commander gets stones (6)
4 Erroneously recasts female member of cast in play (7)
5 Commanding Officer gets a trail location to hang MacIntosh, perhaps (8)
6 Where nails are easily available? (2,4)
7 Specially trained police unit drops team in valley in Pakistan (4)
14 Surplus pictures, perhaps, returned by old spouse (5)
16 John captures the French without weapons? (5)
18 Foresee English travel authorisation getting elusive, for starters (8)
20 Fouls American Indian during elections (8)
21 Protective devices taken into custody around one on board ship (7)
23 Norse bowman's projectile is thin (6)
25 Threw components removed from damaged water heater and let air circulate (6)
27 First father and mother followed astrology in the beginning (4)
29 Advanced money for a month before Easter (4)

SUDOKU

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				6				
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		2			1			

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

No.SS5704 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

		C	O	N	N	E	C	T	I	C	U	T		
A		O		O		X		R		O		I		C
L	E	M	O	N		C	L	E	O	P	A	T	R	A
A		I		P		E		S		Y		I		P
S	A	C	R	A	M	E	N	T	O		A	L	S	O
K				R		D		L				L		N
A	W	A	R	E				L	E	V	I	T	A	T	E
		D		I						N		T		
W	I	L	D	L	I	F	E			T	H	E	T	A
I		I				R		B		H				U
D	E	B	T		S	E	R	E	N	E	N	E	S	S
O		B		G		M		R		D		X		T
W	H	I	R	L	P	O	O	L		A	L	I	B	I
S		N		E		N		I		R		T		N
		G	R	E	A	T	S	N	A	K	E	S		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	7	4	5	2	3	6	8	9
6	2	9	8	1	4	7	5	3
5	3	8	9	6	7	4	2	1
2	5	3	6	7	9	8	1	4
8	9	7	4	3	1	5	6	2
4	6	1	2	5	8	9	3	7
7	4	5	1	8	2	3	9	6
9	8	2	3	4	6	1	7	5
3	1	6	7	9	5	2	4	8

FAITH

Display of mutual affection

Sumantra pleads with Rama not to send him back to Ayodhya, said Navalpakkam Vasudevachariar, in a discourse. He says he has taken the liberty of speaking fearlessly to Rama, because he is devoted to Him. Ayodhya will lose its brightness, now that Rama is no longer there. It will be like a mother separated from her child. What will be the reaction of the citizens of Ayodhya, if they see Sumantra return in an empty chariot? They were unable to see Rama leaving Ayodhya. Now if Sumantra returns without Rama, how will they react? If in a war, a chariot returns without the warrior, people watching the chariot will be miserable. If Sumantra goes back now, the people of Ayodhya will feel the same way. They would not have eaten anything since Rama left. Even the horses will not want to go back without Rama. If Rama does not take Sumantra with Him, Sumantra will have no option but to set fire to the chariot and to himself. He says that since he can ward off wild animals, it is to Rama's advantage to take him along.

If Sumantra is with Rama, years will seem to him like seconds. But if Sumantra is not with Rama, then to Sumantra, fourteen years will seem like ages. Sumantra addresses Rama as bhrtya vatsala – one who is fond of His servants. Sumantra is a devoted servant of Rama, and so Rama must be fond of him. How can he not heed Sumantra's request? Rama addresses Sumantra as bhartru vatsala – one who is fond of his master. The mutual affection of Rama and Sumantra is evident in the way they address each other. Rama tells Sumantra that if he does not go back, Kaikeyi will have doubts about whether her wish has been fulfilled by the king.

SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un brings daughter to visit troops

REUTERS

North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un brought his daughter to visit troops to mark the 75th founding anniversary of the country's Army as he lauded the "irresistible might" of his nuclear-armed military. The visit came amid indications North Korea is preparing to stage a massive military parade in the capital Pyongyang. AP

KARACHI

Pakistan Navy to host 50 nations in maritime exercises from Feb. 10

REUTERS

Pakistan's Navy said it will host 50 countries for maritime exercises from February 10-14. At a news briefing, the Commander of the Pakistan Fleet, Vice Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami, commented on the importance of the exercises in light of piracy, terrorism, narcotics and arms trafficking, and climate change. REUTERS

BOGOTA

Columbia protesters try to overrun Congress seeking health reforms

AFP

Hundreds of members of a teachers' union in Colombia tried to overrun the Congress building in Bogota on Tuesday in a protest demanding improvements to the health care system, officials said. Around 500 men and women wearing red ponchos sought to force their way into the legislature. AFP

BEIJING

Taiwan Opposition leader meets business community in China

REUTERS

The vice chair of Beijing-friendly Opposition Nationalist Party from Taiwan was visiting China for meetings with officials and the local business community. Andrew Hsia's nine-day trip comes as China renews attacks on the ruling Democratic Progressive Party over its refusal to recognise Taiwan as a part of China. AFP

Zelensky makes strong appeal for British fighter jets

In a surprise visit to London, Ukraine's President thanked U.K. for its support and said, 'freedom will win, Russia will lose'; Britain announced it would train Kyiv's troops to fly NATO fighter jets

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky arrived in London on a surprise visit, days before the first anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Mr. Zelensky made a strong pitch for Western – specifically, British – fighter jets on Wednesday. The U.K. announced that it would train Ukrainian troops to fly NATO-fighter jets. In a joint press conference with Mr. Zelensky, U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said that "nothing is off the table" in terms of military aid for Ukraine. He said fighter jets for Ukraine were "part of the conversation".

"I'm happy to be here," Mr. Zelensky said outside No.10 Downing Street. This is only Mr. Zelensky's third visit abroad (he has visited the U.S. and Poland) since the invasion began. He was accompanied by Mr. Sunak who had met him on arrival at the Stansted Airport. The two men held talks, following which Mr. Zelensky addressed both Houses of the U.K. Parliament.

Renewed plea: King Charles III, left, shakes hands with Volodymyr Zelensky at the Buckingham Palace in London on Tuesday. AFP

Addressing lawmakers, Mr. Zelensky thanked Britain for its support, including former Prime Minister Boris Johnson who was in the audience. Former British Prime Ministers Liz Truss, Teresa May, who are MPs, were also present.

Mr. Zelensky also had a meeting with British monarch King Charles III in the afternoon.

Challenger 2 tanks

He is also scheduled to visit an Army training site in Dorset later on Wednesday, along with Mr. Sunak. The U.K. has trained 10,000 Ukrainian troops in the last six months, as per government estimates.

Ukrainian troops are currently being trained to use Challenger 2 tanks, 14 of which London recently committed to provide Kyiv. On Wednesday, Downing Street announced that training would be expanded to include fighter jet pilots and marines.

Training soldiers

Significantly, the training will include preparing soldiers to fly NATO-fighter jets, though NATO has not yet provided these jets to Ukraine, partly out of concerns that it could exacerbate the conflict with Russia. Kyiv had asked for longer-range artillery, which the U.S. recently agreed to provide. It had also asked for Western fighter jets, especially American F-16s, a demand U.S. President Joe Biden has not acquiesced to.

Earlier, Mr. Sunak's spokesperson had said that it was not "practical" right now to send Typhoon and F35 jets to Kyiv and that these jets were "extremely sophisticated" and required months of pilot training. However, Mr. Zelensky reiterated his request for aircraft to the Houses of Parliament.

"...Combat aircraft for Ukraine, wings for freedom," he said and presented a fighter pilot's helmet to the House of Commons Speaker, Lindsay Hoyle, with the words 'We have freedom, gives us wings to protect it' inscribed on it.

"We know freedom will win," Mr. Zelensky said, to applause. "We know Russia will loose," he added.

The U.K. government announced fresh sanctions on entities and individuals providing Russia with military equipment or connected to financial networks linked to "Kremlin elites" to coincide with Mr. Zelensky's visit.

(with AFP inputs)

Biden warns U.S. will act on China after downing surveillance balloon

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden vowed on Tuesday he would not hesitate to defend his country's interests against China after he ordered the downing of a suspected surveillance balloon but, delivering his State of the Union address, kept the door open to cooperation.

In the annual speech to assembled lawmakers, many of whom have pressed for a hard line on China, Mr. Biden called for U.S. investment in the military, technology, and alliances to take on the country widely viewed as the chief U.S. competitor.

"I'm committed to work with China where it can advance American interests and benefit the world," the U.S. President said.

Top brass: Joe Biden, front, delivers the State of the Union address in the House Chamber in Washington DC on Tuesday. AFP

"But make no mistake about it – as we made clear last week, if China threatens our sovereignty, we will act to protect our country. And we did," he said to applause.

But Mr. Biden steered clear of hawkish language as he mentioned by name his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, whom he met at length in November in Indonesia. Mr. Biden said he told Mr. Xi that "we seek competition, not conflict."

In a Foreign Ministry statement issued after Mr. Biden's address, China vowed to "firmly defend" its interests, but also said it was "opposed to using competition to define the entire Sino-U.S. relationship."

China's response

It went on to urge the U.S. to "pursue a positive and pragmatic China policy, and work with China to push Sino-U.S. relations back to the track of healthy and stable development."

China was one of the few foreign policy issues mentioned by Mr. Biden in a more than one-hour speech that comes as he prepares for a likely run for a second term.

He also promised long-term support for Ukraine but made no mention of Iran, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, North Korea or this week's devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

Sri Lankan leader appeals for patience amid crisis

Associated Press
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's President on Wednesday appealed for patience amid the country's worst economic crisis but promised brighter times ahead.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe said in a policy speech that he had been forced to make unpopular decisions to salvage the country's finances, including by implementing measures such as higher taxes.

He added that government employees would receive additional pay in the third and fourth quarters of the year and that the private sector would also be granted concessions.

Syria requests EU assistance; Turkey admits to hiccups in first response to earthquake

Reuters
BRUSSELS

Ankara aims to build houses within a year for those left without a home in the 10 provinces affected

Syria has requested assistance from the European Union, two days after a massive earthquake hit it and neighbouring Turkey, the European Commission said on Wednesday.

"Earlier today, this morning, we have received a request from the government of Syria for assistance through the civil protection mechanism," European Commissioner for crisis management Janez Lenarcic told reporters.

Mr. Lenarcic said European Union member states were being encouraged to contribute with assistance as requested.

Meanwhile, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan acknowledged on Wednesday some problems with Turkey's initial response to the earthquake that rocked the south but said normal operations have resumed.

Mr. Erdogan made his first visit to the devastated region since Monday, when two massive quakes hit within hours, just as confirmed deaths in Turkey and neighbouring Syria shot beyond 11,000.

Situation getting better

Speaking to reporters in the Kahramanmaras province near the epicentre, Mr. Erdogan said there had been problems with roads and airports but that everything would get better by the day.

"On the first day we experienced some issues but then on the second day and today the situation is under control," he said.

The government aims to build housing within one year for those left without a home in the 10 provinces affected, he added.

MH17 probe points to Putin's involvement

Agence France-Presse
THE HAGUE

There are "strong indications" that Russian President Vladimir Putin personally approved the supply of the missile that shot down Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 in 2014, international investigators said on Wednesday.

But the investigators said they were halting their eight-year probe, since Mr. Putin has immunity as head of state and there is not enough concrete evidence to prosecute him or other suspects.

All 298 people on board were killed when a Russian-made missile slammed into the plane travelling from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, sending it crashing in eastern Ukraine. The announcement comes less than three months after a Dutch court convicted two Russians and a Ukrainian in absentia over the downing of MH17.

"There are strong indications that a decision was made at presidential level, by President Putin, to supply the DPR (Donetsk People's Republic) with the Buk TELAR" missile system, Dutch prosecutor Digna van Boetzelaer told a news conference in The Hague. "Although we speak of strong indications, the high bar of complete and conclusive evidence is not reached."

INBRIEF

MRF's Mammen gets ATMA Lifetime Achievement Award

MRF Ltd. CMD K.M. Mammen was presented the ATMA Lifetime Achievement Award by Maruti Suzuki India MD & CEO Hisashi Takeuchi at the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA) Annual Conclave 2023. ATMA said the award was given to its past chairman in recognition of his 'distinctive and outstanding leadership qualities, invaluable contribution to the Indian tyre industry and for leading the industry from the front for over 20 years'.

U.K. offers counter package for Tata's Port Talbot plant

The U.K. government has offered a counter package to Tata Steel against its proposal seeking a financial package to execute its decarbonisation plans for its plant in Port Talbot, its global CEO and MD T.V. Narendran has said. However, there is a big gap between what Tata Steel had asked for and what the British government has offered, he said without sharing any details of the government's offer. The firm had sought £1.5 billion from the U.K. government. REUTERS

E-Re to be piloted by 5 more banks in 9 more cities soon

Five more banks will join the pilot on the central bank digital currency (CBDC) or e-rupee for retail customers and the project will be extended to nine additional cities, the Reserve Bank said. The RBI, which began piloting the digital currency or e-rupee for retail customers in early December with eight banks in five cities, stressed it does not want to rush with it but favours a slow and steady adoption. The retail CBDC is available for only 50,000 users now. PTI

RBI move to hit demand for affordable housing: realtors

Real estate sector hoping Reserve Bank will pause on rate increase going forward; industry captains see an increase in home loan rates offered by banks following Wednesday's rate action

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The RBI's decision to raise the repo rate by 25 basis points will result in an increase in interest rates on home loans and may impact demand for affordable and low-to-mid-income housing segments, according to property developers and consultants.

The real estate industry is also hoping that RBI's move on Wednesday would be the last round of increase in the repo rate.

Realtors' apex body CREDAI National President Harsh Vardhan Patodia said the continuous increase in interest rates would dampen sentiment in borrowing for individuals and businesses alike.

NAREDCO National Vice Chairman Niranjan Hiranandani said, "The outrageous hike of 250 basis point since May... needs to be warranted before it turns negative for the ascending Indian economic growth curve."

The impact of the increase on home loan interest rates would be a deterrent in the affordable housing segment, Mr. Hiranandani added.

Real estate consultant Anarock Chairman Anuj Puri said, "With repo rates now at 6.5%, there could be some repercussions on housing uptake as home loan interest rates will head further north.

Dampening effect

Continuous rise in interest rates will hurt borrowing sentiment for individuals and businesses alike, say industry captains

- One realtor notes that the 250-basis points increase in repo rate since May needs to be 'warranted' before it impacts economic growth trend
- Another expects a pause for at least a year for businesses to come out of the 'tightening' monetary policy
- Still, overall housing demand is expected to sustain despite the rate increase, say realty sector officials

Travellers from G20 can pay via UPI: Das

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday has decided to further expand the scope of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) by permitting its use for inbound travellers to India.

"An enhancement has recently been made to provide UPI access to non-resident Indians who have international mobile numbers linked to their NRE / NRO accounts," the RBI said.

"It is now proposed to permit all inbound travellers to India also to access UPI for their merchant payments (P2M) while they are in the country," said RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das. "To start with, this facility will be extended to travellers from the G20 countries, arriving at select international airports," the RBI Governor added.

'Hopefully, this is last hike in current cycle'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The 25 basis-point rise in key policy rate by the RBI is in line with expectations, and hopefully is the last in the current cycle of rate increase which started in May 2022 in view of rising inflation, opined industry bodies and experts.

Sixth in row

It was the sixth rise in a row. The central bank has cumulatively raised repo rate by 250 basis points since May last year in a bid to contain rising inflation.

"There is no doubt that moderating inflation in today's challenging global environment should be a priority for the RBI Monetary Policy Committee," said Assocham Secretary General Deepak Sood.

"In line with the other broad objective of sustainable growth, we want to believe this is the last rate hike by the Reserve Bank of India," added Mr. Sood.

Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda said the major takeaway is that there would be a prolonged pause for sure before any further action is taken by the RBI and will be data-driven.

RBI moots pilot for QR code-based coin vending

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

To improve the distribution of coins among members of the public, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is preparing a pilot project on QR code-based Coin Vending Machine (QCVM) in collaboration with a few leading banks.

"The QCVM is a cashless coin dispensation machine which would dispense coins against a debit to the customer's bank account using Unified Payments Interface (UPI)," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said while announcing additional measures along with the monetary policy statement on Wednesday.

The QCVM would eliminate the need for physical tendering of banknotes and their authentication.

"The pilot project is planned to be initially rolled out at 19 locations in 12 cities across the country. These vending machines are intended to be installed at public places such as railway stations, shopping malls, marketplaces to enhance ease and accessibility," Mr. Das said.

'Borrow, lend bonds'

RBI would allow banks to borrow and lend government bonds in a move that could add depth and liquidity to the market, Reuters cited Mr. Das as saying.

The move could facilitate wider participation in the securities lending market by providing investors an avenue to deploy idle securities and enhance portfolio returns, he said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	60,664	0.63
US Dollar	82.54	0.09
Gold	57,463	0.32
Brent oil	83.86	1.83

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2164.25	361.30
Adani Ports	599.25	46.10
Apollo Hosp	4391.25	75.65
Asian Paints	2765.60	7.55
Axis Bank	871.75	-7.35
Bajaj Auto	3880.30	0.85
Bajaj Finserv	1368.90	18.50
Bajaj Finance	6351.65	191.10
Bharti Airtel	775.10	-10.80
BPCL	334.20	2.05
Britannia Ind	4594.80	-12.05
Cipla	1039.10	7.80
Coal India	215.50	-4.20
Divis Lab	2799.05	48.20
Dr Reddys Lab	4487.80	47.55
Eicher Motors	3228.00	-46.70
Grasim Ind	1636.55	20.25
HCL Tech	1145.00	16.75
HDFC	2685.80	6.60
HDFC Bank	1654.00	-0.20
HDFC Life	508.55	25.60
Hero MotoCorp	2614.65	-37.95
Hindalco	436.50	6.95
Hind Unilever	2582.80	-18.40
ICICI Bank	859.10	6.35
IndusInd Bank	1145.35	2.45
Infosys	1590.50	28.10
ITC	375.55	2.30
JSW Steel	731.95	17.85
Kotak Bank	1765.50	-9.90
L&T	2130.85	-34.45
M&M	1373.05	6.35
Maruti Suzuki	8834.70	72.25
NestleIndia	18994.90	16.90
NTPC	165.50	0.25
ONGC	143.90	-0.75
PowerGrid Corp	212.00	-4.85
Reliance Ind	2351.95	46.05
SBI Life	1164.50	32.75
State Bank	549.75	2.65
Sun Pharma	1013.00	6.60
TataConsumerProduct	724.40	-3.80
Tata Motors	440.10	4.65
Tata Steel	111.45	0.00
TCS	3520.10	47.55
Tech Mahindra	1011.05	8.60
Titan	2466.75	19.85
UltraTech Cement	7250.35	178.55
UPL	722.65	13.40
Wipro	406.75	6.25

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 08

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.29	82.61
Euro	88.37	88.74
British Pound	99.53	99.92
Japanese Yen (100)	62.90	63.15
Chinese Yuan	12.13	12.18
Swiss Franc	89.53	89.90
Singapore Dollar	62.16	62.41
Canadian Dollar	61.52	61.76
Malaysian Ringitt	19.15	19.22
Australian Dollar	57.40	57.62

Source:Indian Bank

Survey shows concern over governance at Adani Group

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

About 71% of respondents, exposed to the capital markets, in a survey expressed concern at governance in the Adani Group with more than half of them seeking a detailed investigation by the markets watchdog SEBI and the Reserve Bank of India.

The survey, conducted by LocalCircles, received more than 29,000 responses from citizens in 273 districts. It conducted the survey after receiving complaints from concerned investors after U.S. short seller Hindenburg Research released a report on the Adani Group last month.

Big Oil doubles profit in blockbuster 2022

Reuters
LONDON

Big Oil more than doubled its profit in 2022 to $219 billion, smashing previous records in a year of volatile energy prices where Russia's invasion of Ukraine reshaped global energy markets and, in some cases, the industry's climate ambitions.

The combined $219 billion in profit allowed BP, Chevron, Equinor, Exxon Mobil, Shell and TotalEnergies to shower shareholders with cash.

Record dividend

The top Western oil companies paid out a record $110 billion in dividends and share repurchases to investors in 2022, spurring outraged calls on governments to impose windfall taxes on industry.

TotalEnergies Chief Executive Patrick Pouyanne said the global backdrop remained very favourable for energy companies, with the relaxing of COVID-19 measures in China raising demand for 2023.

"We wouldn't be surprised to see oil back to $100 a barrel," Mr. Pouyanne said. Benchmark oil prices are currently almost $85 a barrel.

Govt. unveils draft dispute settlement scheme

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

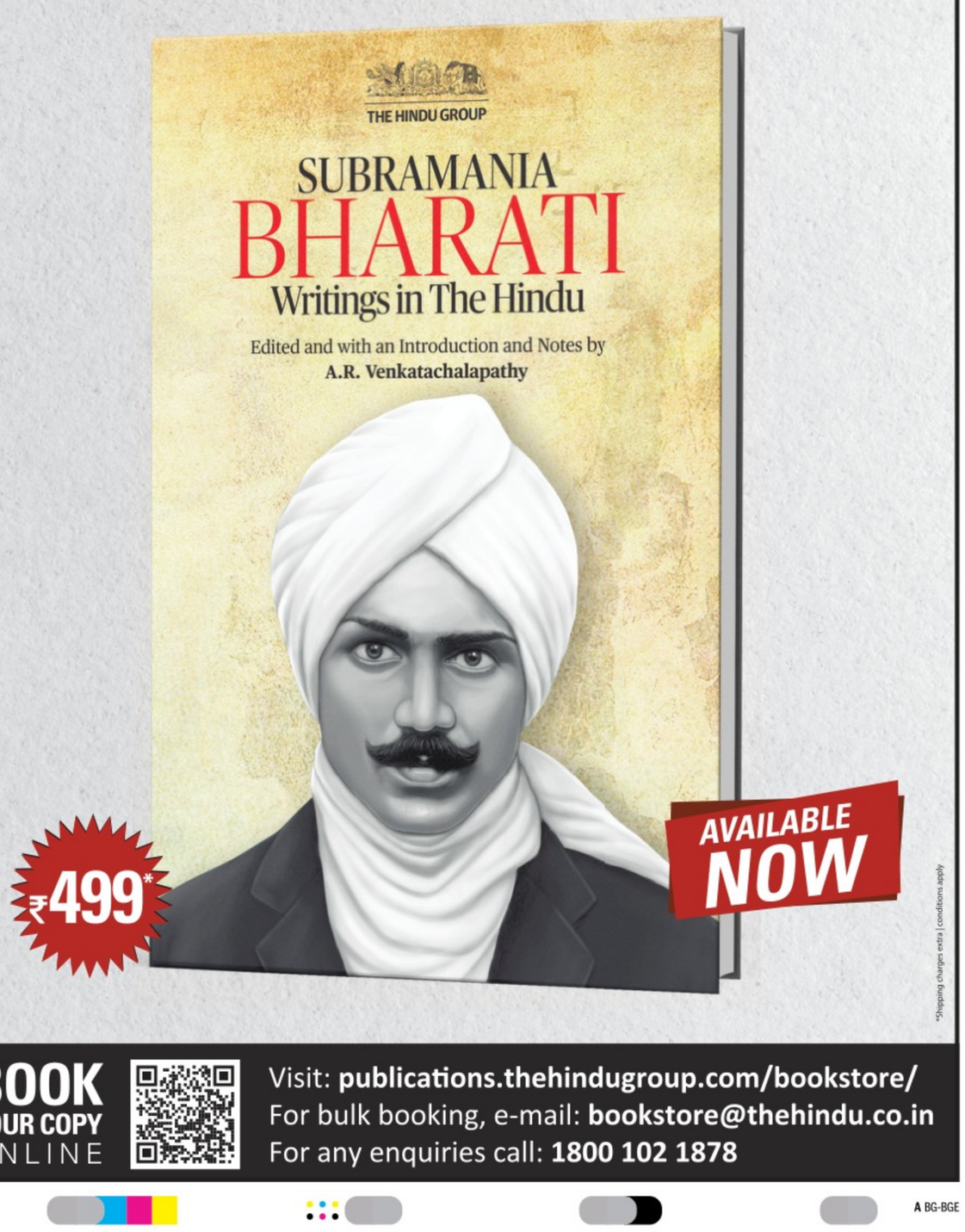
The Finance Ministry released the contours of a draft voluntary settlement scheme to end festering contractual disputes of government agencies which, it said, are "not only holding back fresh investment but are also reducing the ease of doing business with the government."

Called the Vivad se Vishwas II, the "one-time settlement" scheme contains a draft pact between the litigating parties to bring finality to the dispute and is proposed to be implemented through a functionality on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal.

THE HINDU GROUP

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

Subramania Bharati was more than the foremost poet of Tamil Nadu. He was also a sharp commentator on the social and political issues of his time. This book brings together all of his writings in *The Hindu* during his exile in Pondicherry.



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India said to seek LIC, EPFO investment for green energy

Reuters
NEW DELHI

The Indian government is considering mandating the Life Insurance Corp. of India (LIC) and sovereign pension fund to invest 1% of their assets under management in bonds issued by state-run power lending firms to finance green projects, two sources said.

The federal Power Ministry has written to the Finance Ministry asking that the LIC and Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) be mandated to invest in such bonds issued by Power Finance Corp. (PFC), REC Ltd. and Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), according to two government officials who declined to be identified.

Net zero

LIC and EPFO have combined assets under management of ₹50 trillion ($604.87 billion). A commitment of billions of dollars in bonds by two of the biggest funds in the country would be key to filling an estimated $3 trillion investment gap in meeting a 2070 goal for net zero emissions.

The proposal, if approved, may have to go through the investment committees of both LIC and EPFO, an official and a partner at a law firm said.

"The investment committee of LIC will have the flexibility to tweak their investments accordingly," said Harvinder Singh, a partner at DSK Legal.

The Power Ministry has also proposed reducing fee for sovereign guarantees on foreign currency loans taken by three state-run power financiers from overseas markets at 0.1% to 0.6% against the 1.2% of the funds being raised.

Rane Madras Q3 net jumps to ₹33 crore as revenue grows

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Rane Madras Ltd.'s standalone net profit for the quarter ended December saw a more than fourfold rise to ₹33 crore on strong revenue growth.

Sales to Indian original equipment customers grew 28% supported by strong demand across vehicle segments. Export sales grew 68%. Sales to Indian aftermarket customers bounced back with a 12% growth. Revenue from operations rose to ₹526 crore from ₹391 crore, while input cost increased by 32% to ₹358 crore, the company said in a filing.

NUMERO UNO

LeBron James claims throne as NBA's all-time leading scorer

LA Lakers' LeBron James surpassed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to become NBA's all-time leading scorer on Tuesday, setting the new mark against the Oklahoma City Thunder. James, who entered the game needing 36 points to break Abdul-Jabbar's record of 38,387, ended the night with a career total at 38,390 points.

GOOD TIDINGS

Suryakumar continues to lead batting chart, Gill shoots to 30th

India's Suryakumar Yadav remained strong at the top spot, while compatriot Shubman Gill shot up to a career-best 30th position in the batting chart of the ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings released on Wednesday. Suryakumar continues to lead the batting list with 906 rating points and Gill achieved a career-best position.

HONOURS EVEN

Gritty Zimbabwe clings on for a draw against West Indies

Zimbabwe survived some testing spin bowling from West Indies to cling on for a draw in the first Test in Bulawayo on Wednesday. **The scores**: West Indies 447/6 decl. & 203/5 decl. in 60 overs (Reifer 58, Blackwood 57, Masakadza 3/71) drew with Zimbabwe 379/9 decl. & 134/6 in 54 overs (Chibhabha 31, Motie 4/50).

SECOND WIN

Kolkata Thunderbolts downs Hyderabad Black Hawks

Kolkata Thunderbolts got the better of Hyderabad Black Hawks 15-13, 15-7, 15-9, 15-12, 8-15 in the RuPay Prime Volleyball League at the Koramangala Indoor Stadium, Bengaluru, on Wednesday. In the process, Thunderbolts recorded their second win of the tournament.

India and Australia renew famed rivalry as WTC final beckons

The first of the four mouth-watering Tests for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy gets underway today; focus remains on the pitch as Rohit and Cummins' men jostle for glory; it will be interesting to see how the Aussie left-handers handle Ashwin

AUSTRALIA IN INDIA

Amol Karhadkar
NAGPUR

Test cricket returns to India after 11 months and that too with a mouth-watering series against fierce rivals Australia. That the fate of India's entry into a second consecutive World Test Championship (WTC) final largely hinges on its outcome makes it all the more interesting.

No wonder then that not just the Orange City, the epicentre of India, that will host the series-opener from Thursday, but the whole nation is excited about the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series.

Near sellout

The season tickets have been nearly sold out for the match and the Nagpurkars have been discussing the possible combination in a series that has again been – after two decades – billed as the 'Final Frontier' by Australia.

On Wednesday, inside the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium's sprawling premises, however, the focus firmly remained on the 22-yard strip. With the pitch having been selectively watered with an intention of making the Aussie left-handers' life even more difficult against India's spin trio, it didn't come as a surprise that both camps took a long and hard look at the wicket.

It included India's support staff who arrived for an optional session that was skipped by all the members of the squad except Jaydev Unadkat, who batted against five support spin bowlers who have been with the camp. A majority of Australia's players, including captain Pat Cummins and veteran batter Steve Smith, were in action in the afternoon.

But there is so much to look forward to over the next five weeks beyond the pitch and the Nagpur Test will set the ball rolling. Despite India's spin combination – there will be a toss-up between Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav for the third spinner's slot – having an edge over their Australian counterparts, the batting departments of both outfits will be pondering about tackling quality spin in tough conditions.

The Australian batting order, with four of its top-seven – Marnus Labuschagne, Usman Khawaja, Travis Head and Alex Carey – having never played Test cricket in India, will have its task cut out.

Besides, David Warner is yet to taste success in India. Smith will thus be hoping for some support from these specialist batters along with Matt Renshaw, who is set to get a game in Cameron Green's absence.

India, on the other hand, will still be mulling over whether to fill the middle-order slot vacated by Shreyas Iyer with Shubman Gill or Suryakumar Yadav.

Tough call

It will be a tough call as it will pit Suryakumar's heroics, primarily in T20Is, against the classy Gill who has been prolific in all formats. With Rishabh Pant not available, the hosts will look for quick runs in the middle of the innings.

Be it Gill or Suryakumar, India will be tempted to slot the batter at No. 6 and Ravindra Jadeja is likely to earn a promotion to No. 5. Jadeja will be a handy option to ensure a left-handed batting option in the top six. Debutant wicketkeeper K.S. Bharat will bat at No. 7.

Rohit Sharma and deputy K.L. Rahul will be reunited at the top of the order.

The teams (from):
India: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, K.L. Rahul, K.S. Bharat (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, R. Ashwin, Mohammed Siraj, Mohammed Shami, Jaydev Unadkat, Kuldeep Yadav and Umesh Yadav.
Australia: Pat Cummins (Capt.), Usman Khawaja, David Warner, Marnus Labuschagne, Steve Smith, Travis Head, Matthew Renshaw, Alex Carey (wk), Ashton Agar, Nathan Lyon, Peter Handscomb, Lance Morris, Todd Murphy, Mitchell Swepson and Scott Boland.
Umpires: Richard Illingworth and Nitin Menon. **TV umpire:** Michael Gough; **Match referee:** Andy Pycroft.
Match starts at 9.30 a.m.

Heavyweight bout

There's a buzz as the Aussies and the Indians, the top two in the World Test Championship standings, brace up for the big battle.

K.R DEEPAK

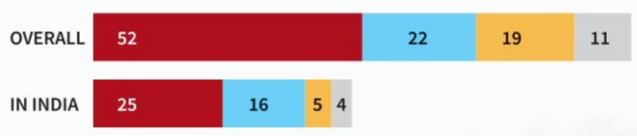
Since 1996-97, the Australia-India Test series is being played for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy

A season-wise peek

	Host	Winner	Result
1996-97	India	India	1-0 (1)
1997-98	India	India	2-1 (3)
1999-00	Australia	Australia	3-0 (3)
2000-01	India	India	2-1 (3)
2003-04*	Australia	Drawn	1-1 (4)
2004-05	India	Australia	2-1 (4)
2007-08	Australia	Australia	2-1 (4)
2008-09	India	India	2-0 (4)
2010-11	India	India	2-0 (2)
2011-12	Australia	Australia	4-0 (4)
2012-13	India	India	4-0 (4)
2014-15	Australia	Australia	2-0 (4)
2016-17	India	India	2-1 (4)
2018-19	Australia	India	2-1 (4)
2020-21	Australia	India	2-1 (4)

*INDIA RETAINED THE TROPHY

H2H IN BORDER-GAVASKAR TROPHY

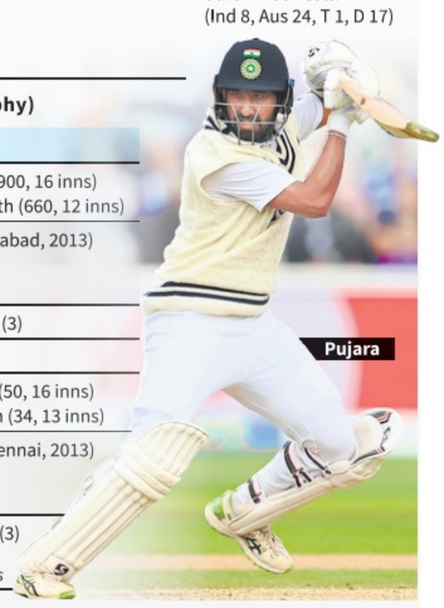


India and Australia had previously played each other in 50 Tests. (Ind 8, Aus 24, T 1, D 17)

RULING THE CHARTS (Border–Gavaskar Trophy)

Overall		In India*
Tendulkar (3262, 65 inns)	Most runs	**For India:** Pujara (900, 16 inns) **For Australia:** Smith (660, 12 inns)
Clarke (329 n.o., Sydney, 2012)	Highest	Pujara (204, Hyderabad, 2013) Smith (178 n.o., Ranchi, 2017)
Tendulkar (9)	Most 100s	Pujara (2) | Smith (3)
	BOWLING	
Kumble (111, 38 inns)	Most wickets	**For India:** Ashwin (50, 16 inns) For **Australia:** Lyon (34, 13 inns)
Lyon (8/50, Bengaluru, 2017)	Best bowling (innings)	Ashwin (7/103, Chennai, 2013) Lyon (8/50, Bengaluru, 2017)
Kumble (10)	Most five-fors	Ashwin (5) | Lyon (3)

**Players from the current squads*



TOP OF THE HEAP

- **13** Dhoni's matches as captain, the most in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. He won eight, lost four and drew the other
- **32** Harbhajan's wicket collection, the best in a series (2000-01)
- **34** Tendulkar has figured in the most number of games
- **769** Smith's run-fest in 2014-15, the highest in a series

FORM GUIDE (last five matches, latest game first)
India W W L W W
Australia D W W W W

THE SCHEDULE
- **First Test:** February 9-13, Nagpur
- **Second Test:** February 17-21, New Delhi
- **Third Test:** March 1-5, Dharamsala
- **Fourth Test:** March 9-13, Ahmedabad

All matches start at **9.30 a.m.**

COMPILED BY R. NARAYANAN AND G. PRASAD | GRAPHIC: KARTHICK S.T

SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO

Wily customer: The Aussies will be wary of Ashwin who has had a fair bit of success against them over the years. K.R. DEEPAK

Will check the conditions and pick the best XI: Rohit

Amol Karhadkar
NAGPUR

The WTC final will be held at The Oval from June 7 to 11

India captain Rohit Sharma preferred to hold the team combination close to his chest but said that it will be flexible in terms of composition right through the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

He also admitted that it would be a difficult choice between Shubman Gill and Suryakumar Yadav for the middle-order slot.

"We have to go to each venue, try and check the conditions and pick the best XI. That is what we have done in the past and that is what we will do going forward," Rohit said on Wednesday.

"We are ready to play horses for courses. That is something that we have spoken to the guys at the start of the series and we will continue to do that. We are quite open with all of the options."

With K.L. Rahul and Rohit set to reopen, Gill, who has hammered runs across formats starting with the tour of Bangladesh in December, and Suryakumar are the prime candidates to fill in for the injured Shreyas Iyer.

"They both bring different things to the table for us. Gill we all know has been in supreme form in the last three-four months. A couple of hundreds, big hundreds as well," Rohit said.

"Surya, in T20 cricket, has shown what he is capable of. That kind of game he can bring to Test cricket as well. Both are quality options. We have not decided yet. We will keep in mind all aspects of the game. I need to have a final look at the pitch and when I do that, probably we'll have someone in mind."

Rohit also downplayed the furore in the Australian media which called the Jamtha pitch "doctored".

"Doctored wicket, I just feel that we have got to focus on the cricket that is going to be played over the next five days. Not worry too much about the pitch," Rohit said.

"The last series we played in India, a lot was spoken about the pitches, all the 22 cricketers who are going to play are all quality cricketers. So not to worry about how the pitch is going to be like, how much it is turning or seaming... you just have to play good cricket."

Our batters will relish problem-solving: Cummins

Sports Bureau
NAGPUR

Australia captain Pat Cummins stressed that his batting line-up is relishing the challenge in adverse conditions.

"Potentially, yes," Cummins said when asked whether it was the most unusual-looking pitch he has come across. "Looks a little bit dry for the left-handers and knowing how much traffic will probably go through there from the right-arm bowlers, potentially might be a fair bit of rough out there.

"Again that's something we just got to embrace. It's going to be fun, it's going to be challenging at times, but our batters will relish the chance to problem-solve on their feet and quite a few of them will get their chances to do that."

In a bid to optimise India's home advantage, the groundstaff, under the watchful eyes of BCCI-deputed curators, have designed a pitch that is loose just outside the off-stump for left-handed batters, especially from one end. With Australia boasting six lefties in its batting line-up, the likes of David Warner and Usman Khawaja will be hoping to succeed against the odds.

Despite Australia having failed to win a series in India for nearly two decades, Cummins emphasised that his unit will not carry the baggage of the past.

"This team is very different to a lot of the teams that have played here in the past. So we don't carry the wins, we don't carry the losses.

"We know it's tough to tour here. India are a really good cricket side, especially at home, and we are excited. And yeah, we will give it our best shot," said the Australia skipper.

The mystery: Cummins takes a look at the 22-yard strip which has been the centre of attention. K.R. DEEPAK

Richa stars for India

Press Trust of India
STELLENBOSCH (S. AFRICA)

Richa Ghosh smashed an attacking unbeaten 91 as India defeated Bangladesh by 52 runs in a warm-up match ahead of the Women's T20 World Cup here on Wednesday.

India made an imposing 183 for five and restricted Bangladesh to 131 for eight.

Coming on to bat at No. 4, Richa's knock came off just 56 deliveries with the help of three boundaries and nine hits over the fence. Besides Richa, Jemimah Rodrigues made a fluent 27-ball 41.

The scores:
India 183/5 in 20 overs (Richa Ghosh 91 n.o., Jemimah Rodrigues 41) bt Bangladesh 131/8 in 20 overs (Nigar Sultana 40, Murshida Khatun 32).
Australia 168/5 in 20 overs (Alyssa Healy 62, Tahlia McGrath 56, Ellyse Perry 40) lost to Ireland 169/7 in 19.4 overs (Laura Delany 32, Amy Hunter 26).

EB, NEUFC split points in high-scoring affair

ISL-9

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

East Bengal was held 3-3 by NorthEast United FC in an ISL-9 fixture on Wednesday.

The opening session, which provided great entertainment and end-to-end action, produced four goals. The second half had the same intensity though only two goals were scored.

Just when it seemed that NEUFC was running out of time, Imran Khan found the equaliser to ensure a point for the visitors.

The result: East Bengal FC 3 (Cleiton 10, 64-pen, Jarvis 45+2) drew with NorthEast United FC 3 (Parthib 30, Jithin 32, Imran 85).

Imran. FOCUS SPORTS/ISL

INBRIEF

Paris Olympic Games unveils 'joyful' look for 2024

Paris Olympic organisers unveiled the 'visual identity' for the 2024 Games on Wednesday including a purple athletics track and a fresh set of pictograms for Olympic sports. The release of the designs was a marker in the countdown to the event which opens on July 26, 2024. "It's a new look for the Games," said organising Committee president and three-time Olympic canoeing gold medal winner Tony Estanguet.

Tamil Nadu stutters before beating Telangana

Maharashtra, Haryana, Karnataka, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Kerala booked their second-stage spots in the youth girls' u-19 team events of the UTT 84th inter-State National (junior & youth) table tennis championships in Chennai on Wednesday. TN dropped a tie to Telangana before overcoming the neighbouring state 3-1. With the truck carrying Stag equipment, including flooring and tables, breaking down on Tuesday morning midway, the Tamil Nadu Table Tennis Association (TNTTA) officials had to arrange for Stag tables and balls from local sources so that the matches in u-19 team events could proceed unhindered. Udayanidhi Stalin, the Youth Affairs and Sports Minister of Tamil Nadu, inaugurated the championships.

Important results: Group A: Maharashtra bt Goa 3-0 & Pondicherry 3-0. **Group B:** Haryana bt Andhra Pradesh 3-0 & Daman & Diu 3-0. **Group C:** Karnataka bt Madhya Pradesh 3-0 & Uttarakhand 3-0. **Group D:** West Bengal bt Chandigarh 3-0 and Assam 3-0. **Group E:** Tamil Nadu bt Jharkhand 3-0 & Telangana 3-1. **Group F:** Delhi bt Himachal Pradesh 3-0 & Rajasthan 3-0. **Group G:** Kerala bt Odisha 3-0 & Bihar 3-0. **Group H:** Gujarat bt Punjab 3-0; UP bt Chhattisgarh 3-0; Punjab bt Chhattisgarh 3-0.

Indian teams off to a good start in Asian junior squash

The Indian boys' and girls' teams scripted easy victories on the opening day of the HCL-SRFI Asian junior team squash championships in Chennai on Wednesday.

The results: Boys: Group-A: Pakistan bt Kuwait 3-0. B: India bt Singapore 3-0 (Paarth Ambani bt Benjamin Koh Kai Foo 11-2, 11-5, 11-7; Shaurya Bawa bt Mark Lee Hong Yi 11-2, 11-6, 11-1; Krishna Mishra bt Ethan Chua Jie Fan 11-4 11-3 11-2).
India bt Chinese Taipei 3-0 (Paarth bt Pan Hong-Rui 11-3, 11-1, 11-3; Shaurya bt Li Zong-Han 11-2, 11-5, 11-4; Krishna bt Pan Yi-An 11-1, 11-3, 11-2). **Malaysia bt Singapore 3-0. Girls: Group-B: India bt Sri Lanka 3-0** (R. Pooja Arthi bt Anargi Perera 11-0,12-10, 11-5; Yuvna Gupta bt Ranliya Wood 11-8, 11-4, 11-2; Anahat Singh bt Chanithma Sinaly 11-6, 11-3, 11-2).

Boxing federation signs up REC as one of its sponsors

The Boxing Federation of India has roped in a Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) as one of its sponsors. The REC will spend ₹30 crore over a period of three years to develop the sport. As a part of the agreement, the BFI will utilise funds to conduct an international training camp in New Delhi from March 3 to 12.

Real Kashmir downs Sudeva Delhi in I-League

Real Kashmir FC ended its eight-game winless streak in the I-League with a thumping 4-2 win over Sudeva Delhi FC at the TRC Stadium in Srinagar on Wednesday. A brace by Richard Osei Agyemang (20th and 71st) and a goal each by Lalnuntluanga Bawitlung (17th) and Jestin George (83rd) gave the Snow Leopards full three points. New forwards Alexis Gomez (22nd) and Shavkati Khotam (55th, penalty) helped Sudeva Delhi claw back to 2-2, but the host had enough left in the tank in the second half to regain the two-goal advantage and cruise to a much-needed win. Meanwhile in Imphal, NEROCA FC rode on Jourdaine Fletcher's 60th minute strike to down Kenkre FC 1-0. Eighteen minutes after taking the lead, NEROCA was reduced to 10 players when Thokchom Johnson Singh was sent off.

LIVE TELECAST

India vs Australia: 1st Test, day 1, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: (semifinal), Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
KIYG: Star Sports 3, DD Sports, Hotstar & FanCode, 10 a.m. onwards
I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 2 & 4.30 p.m.
PVL: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Mayank's workmanlike unbeaten century pulls Karnataka from a spot of bother

The skipper forges an unbeaten 117-run stand with Sharath after the Saurashtra attack has the host struggling at 112 for five

Purposeful and pleasing: Mayank's responsible knock was embellished with some lovely strokes. SUDHAKARA JAIN

RANJI SEMIFINALS

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

A captain's knock from Mayank Agarwal (110 batting, 246b, 11x4, 1x6) carried Karnataka to 229 for five at stumps on the opening day of its Ranji Trophy semifinal against Saurashtra at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Wednesday.

On a wicket that sported a generous sprinkling of grass, and under conditions where the ball swung and seamed all day, Mayank, who lost the toss, stood tall, thwarting the visiting pacers to script his 15th First Class century. By evening he had also succeeded in relegating to the back of the mind some of his teammates' rank mediocrity.

From a dire 112 for five, Mayank and wicketkeeper Sharath Srinivas (58, 143b, 4x4) combined for a 117-run partnership for the sixth wicket (279 balls).

Lucky escapes

It wasn't as if their innings were chanceless. Mayank was dropped on 13 by Snell Patel at second slip off Prerak Mankad and Sharath could have been run out on 22 if 'keeper Harvik Desai had collected a throw from the deep properly.

But they capitalised on the reprieves and rebooted their respective innings in workmanlike fashion. Mayank routinely stepped out to the pacers to smother the swing, especially in the morning session. A clipped four to the backward square-leg boundary and two drives down the ground were his standout shots early on.

When spin was introduced, as late as the 44th over, Mayank was totally at ease, as one saw from the splendid straight six he hit off left-arm spinner Dharmendrasinh Jadeja to move into the eighties.

Glorious on-drive

A glorious on-drive took him into the nineties and it wasn't long before he brought up his third century of the Ranji Trophy campaign with back-to-back fours off left-arm tweaker Parth Bhut – a square drive and a late cut.

But not an iota of the 31-year-old's discipline and patience was imbibed by his fellow top-order batters. Even as Devdutt Padikkal and Nikin Jose fell to fine deliveries that shaped away, from Chetan Sakariya and Kushang Patel respectively, R. Samarth slashed at a wide delivery to be caught in the slips and Manish Pandey tried to heave one recklessly and holed out at mid-wicket.

Shreyas Gopal was lethargic in responding to a call for a quick single in the cover-point area and was run out by a direct hit from substitute Samarth Vyas.

But a wicket-less final session that fetched 89 runs brought Karnataka firmly back.

The scores:

Karnataka — 1st innings: R. Samarth c Vishwarajsinh b Kushang 3, Mayank Agarwal (batting) 110, Devdutt Padikkal c Jackson b Sakariya 9, Nikin Jose c Harvik b Kushang 18, Manish Pandey c Snell b Mankad 7, Shreyas Gopal run out 15, Sharath Srinivas (batting) 58; Extras (b-5, lb-1, nb-3): 9; Total (for five wkts. in 87 overs): 229.

Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-21, 3-68, 4-79, 5-112.

Saurashtra bowling: Sakariya 17-5-39-1, Kushang 16-0-64-2, Jani 15-5-25-0, Mankad 18-3-42-1, Dharmendrasinh 14-2-28-0, Bhut 7-1-25-0.

Toss: Saurashtra.

Gharami, Majumdar centuries lift Bengal against MP

Dhruva Prasad
INDORE

Bengal's youth and experience came to the fore as Sudip Gharami (112, 213b, 12x4, 2x6) and Anustup Majumdar (120, 206b, 13x4, 1x6) tamed defending champion Madhya Pradesh with a 241-run partnership for the third wicket on the first day of the Ranji Trophy semifinal here on Wednesday.

However, both perished within two overs of the onset of the second new ball. Avesh Khan castled Majumdar with a yorker and Anubhav Agarwal trapped Gharami in front with one that seamed in to ensure the home crowd returns on Thursday with Bengal 307 for four at stumps.

Making merry: Sudip Kumar Gharami and Anustup Majumdar's tons frustrated Madhya Pradesh. FILE PHOTOS

Majumdar notched up his 13th First-Class hundred off 176 balls and celebrated the landmark by sticking his taped left thumb out, still sore from the knock it received against Odisha. Moments later, Gharami struck his 183-ball century with a bold reverse-sweep. He pounced on the fuller deliveries with his drives and flicks off the toes.

On a pitch which afforded little pace or bounce, there was a case for pitching the ball up to the batters.

Gaurav Yadav and Anubhav Agarwal had breached the defenses of Abhimanyu Easwaran and Karan Lal, respectively, with yorker-length deliveries that shaped in late.

But those were anomalies in an effort marred by inaccuracy. With a layer of grass running through the middle of the pitch, Avesh and Gaurav were tempted to bowl back-of-a-length. Abhimanyu and Lal drove and pushed off the back-foot and rushed Bengal to 50 in 10.2 overs after Bengal elected to bat.

The spinners were largely ineffective save for Kartikeya occasionally extracting awry bounce and Jain inducing two false shots from Gharami, who was dropped on 26 and 76 off his bowling.

While the new ball has given MP a foothold, captain Manoj Tiwary and Shahbaz Ahmed hold the promise of burying the home team further under a mountain of runs.

The scores:

Bengal — 1st innings: Karan Lal b Anubhav Agarwal 23, Abhimanyu Easwaran b Gaurav Yadav 27, Sudip Gharami lbw b Anubhav Agarwal 112, Anustup Majumdar b Avesh Khan 120, Manoj Tiwary (batting) 5, Shahbaz Ahmed (batting) 6; Extras: (lb-14): 14; Total (for four wkts. in 87 overs) 307.

Fall of wickets: 1-51, 2-51, 3-292, 4-296.

Madhya Pradesh bowling: Kumar Kartikeya 23-1-73-0, Avesh Khan 20-1-79-1, Gaurav Yadav 10-1-37-1, Anubhav Agarwal 12-5-21-2, Saransh Jain 15-1-56-0, Shubham Sharma 5-0-18-0, Yash Dubey 2-0-9-0.

Toss: Bengal.

Arjun inflicts year's first loss on Carlsen; Pragg in final of Div. 3

AIRTHINGS MASTERS

Sports Bureau

Arjun Erigiasi inflicted the year's first defeat on Magnus Carlsen in the $2-million Champions Chess Tour but could not stop the World champion from advancing to the final of the Airthings Masters online rapid chess tournament on Tuesday.

In the semifinals of Division 1, Arjun lost the first game, drew the second but hit back in the third to draw level.

After the fourth game ended in a draw, Carlsen came out unscathed with black pieces in the drawn Armageddon game against Arjun to advance to the final against Hikaru Nakamura.

Nakamura and Wesley So drew all five games, including Armageddon, in the other semifinal.

Arjun now finds himself in the losers' bracket where he runs into D. Gukesh, who defeated Rauf Mamedov 2-1. After Mamedov levelled the match score 1-1 by winning the second game, Gukesh won the Armageddon game to advance.

In Division 3, R. Praggnanandhaa will face USA's Samuel Sevian in the final.

Praggnanandhaa defeated compatriot V. Pranav 2-0 and then nailed USA's Lenderman Aleksandr in the Armageddon to reach the final.

Rajasthan men and Kerala women enter the finals

NATL. VOLLEYBALL

Sports Bureau

Last year's bronze medallist Services overcame a strong challenge from defending champion Haryana to record a 25-22, 25-22, 25-21 victory in the semifinals and enter the men's title clash in the National volleyball championships at Guwahati on Wednesday.

Services will meet Rajasthan, which got past Tamil Nadu 25-16, 25-17, 25-23 in the other last-four contest.

In a repeat of last year's women's final, title holder Kerala will meet Railways for the top honour.

Kerala trounced Rajasthan, while Railways beat West Bengal in the last-four matches.

Dominant: Kerala women proved too good for Rajasthan. RITU RAJ KONWAR

The results (semifinals):
Men: Rajasthan bt Tamil Nadu 25-16, 25-17, 25-23; Services bt Haryana 25-22, 25-22, 25-21.
Women: Kerala bt Rajasthan 25-10, 25-12, 25-16; Railways bt West Bengal 25-20, 25-16, 25-14.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Champion: The triumphant V. Raja HC squad. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

V. Raja Hockey Club has the last laugh

With four wins in five matches, V. Raja Hockey Club won the KSHA Super Division hockey league here on Wednesday. V. Raja HC was tied with Rainbow HC on points, but finished ahead on the basis of a superior goal-difference.

The results: Metro HC 7 (Hari Ram 8, 24, Nagarjun 15, 29, Logesh 20, Jaya Prathap 32, Santhosh Kumar 43) bt JFHA 2 (Teja 13, Moses 40).
Super Division final standings: 1. V. Raja HC (12 points), 2. Rainbow HC (12), 3. Metro HC (10), 4. 5C SC (7), 5. Shlok HC (3), 6. JFHA (0).
Special prizes: Super Division: Best goalkeeper: Sourabh (V. Raja); **best defender:** Pradeep Panchal (V. Raja); **best half-back:** Srikanth (Rainbow HC); **best forward:** Karthik (Rainbow HC); **player-of-the-championship:** Santhosh (Metro HC).
'A' Division: Best goalkeeper: Sai Kumar (Guru HC); **best defender:** Abijith (HMT); **best half-back:** Basha (Karnataka Forest Department); **best forward:** Ankith Gowda (YSHC); **player-of-the-championship:** Darshan (Karnataka Forest Department).
'B' Division: Best goalkeeper: Vijin More (BCYA); **best defender:** Mallikarjun (Sandeep HC); **best half-back:** Srinath (Bellary HC); **best forward:** Sandeep (BCYA); **Player of the championship:** Sajan (Team Wildboar).
'C' Division: Best goalkeeper: Vijayan Unni (Delhi PS, East); **best defender:** Joseph (Blue Star HC); **best half-back:** Srikanth (Sahyadri HC); **best forward:** Jagadish (Blue Star HC); **player-of-the-championship:** Shahnul Safaz (Delhi PS, East).

Manjunatha stars in Caravan Cricketers win

S. Manjunatha (81 and 4/19) powered Caravan Cricketers past Friends CC (Kolar) in the KSCA Group I, V Division league here.

The scores: Caravan Cricketers 236 in 46.2 overs (S. Manjunatha 81, Mohan Narahari 30, Nitesh 30, S. Balakrishna 3/27) bt Friends CC (Kolar) 104 in 22.3 overs (Daivik Nayak 33, S. Manjunatha 4/19, Madhusudan Vijayakumar 3/15).
SSK CC 171/9 in 33.1 overs (D.K. Sagar 46, Anil Kumar 26, D.G. Abhilash 39, Janardhan 3/39, Hemanth 4/44) lost to Young Cricketers (1) 172/4 in 26.2 overs (Abhilash Nair 50, Mohith Kumar 58).
Young Cricketers (2) 347/4 in 50 overs (Karan Raghavendra 139, Vishal Kiran 107 n.o., Rizwan Pasha 33) bt Bangalore Star CA 132 in 29.5 overs (Prakash Pukale 56, Kiran Gowda 3/9, N.H. Suresh 4/33).
Mathikere CC 180 in 42.3 overs (M. Vidyasagar 37, Ankur Koul 52, Sandeep Kumar 3/30) lost to Zodiac CC 185/4 in 29.2 overs (Pavan Yadav 79, Mukesh 35).
Gandhinagar Cricketers 205 in 41.4 overs (Gaurav Singh 88, Trupathi 30, Basavarajmb 5/37) lost to Seshadripuram PUC 207/7 in 36.5 overs (M. Supreeth 64, Raju 29, M. Rajesh 47, Sreekanth Midde 3/27, Dileep Kumar 3/54).

Royals FC runs riot

Royals FC defeated Al Fateh FC 5-0 in the BDFA 'B' division football league here on Wednesday.
The results: 'B' division: Royals FC 5 (R. Vijayakumar 14, Velu 16, G. Samuel 33, K. Arun 63, R. Saleem 66) bt Al Fateh FC 0.
KSFA Under-21 league: Md. Sporting FC 1 (Abdul Quadir 90) drew with Mazaj FC 1 (Bennet Babu 8).